

Minutes for Mental Health Planning Council

Region 10 CSB, Charlottesville, Virginia

December 3, 2008

Attendees

Alison Hymes, Ann Benner, James Johnson, Bonnie Neighbour, Donna Sue Harmon, Mary Kaye Johnston, Mira Signer, Michael Pendrak, Malaina Poore, Susan Williams, Donna Wenzel, Anne Barhaus, Sharon Rogers, Jim Martinez, Brian Parrish, Jack Wood, Mary McQwon, Paula Price, Becky Sterling, Lisa Moore, Ken Moore, Betty Etzler, Candace Benn, Michael Carrasco, Byron Stith, Melissa Harless, Vicky Hardy-Murrell, Will Ferriss, Jo-Amrah McElroy, Katherine Hunter

Meeting called order at 10:20

Introductions and Announcements – All invited to VOCAL open house, Dec 5

Jim Martinez (DMHMRSAS) spoke on budget and reorganization. 15% cut for fiscal year 2009 (4.8 million dollars) losing 29 occupied positions (most are retiring), 11 vacant positions and many wage positions. Losing 5 positions in Office of Mental Health. Cuts should be administrative rather than for direct services. CSB's were instructed that emergency services not be cut. Most of the cuts came out of MH, as opposed to ID or substance abuse monies. Note that for CSB's the cut is a percentage of their state funding, not total funding (varies for each CSB with some relying heavily on state dollars). Medicaid is the largest funding source for CSB's. CSB's reducing travel and vehicle usage to cut costs. What if income levels go up for Medicaid eligibility? "It would affect a significant amount of people." There will be some consolidation in facilities office staff, such as one HR manager for each region. Virginia is ranked 50th in quality outcomes data.

Advocates be alert, especially on the eve of potential national health reform, which could go well or not well at all. There may be a need for small adult homes rather than large facilities. Politics play a role here. Mary McQuown points out there are many perspectives on this. And are we fairly advocating for what consumers (and their families) want? Information is needed to find out what services are needed and the best way to go about it.

Jan 9, Virginia Hospital Organization is meeting to talk about LIPPOS

Laws: Report to Commissioner: presented on Oct 30 Advance directives proposal for non-end-of-life situations including psychiatric. Needs further amendments. Use of mandatory outpatient treatment far fewer in this first quarter than last first quarter – only 11 for all of Virginia... There are other mental issues that are not budget related will come up in this legislative session.

Dr. Susan Williams points out that mandatory outpatients are harder to get and many of these people end up in jail. Caution is needed in terms of adults with dementia/Alzheimer's.

Break for lunch 12 until 12:55

VOTES

Write in Nominees: Vicky Hardy-Murell for Children's Services VP, Becky Sterling for President, Melissa Harless for Adult Services, James Johnson Secretary

Elected: Becky Sterling for President, Vicky Hardy-Murell for VP, Melissa Harless for Adult Services, James Johnson Secretary

Vote on two new council members: BOTH APPROVED Ann Barhans (interested in older adult population and mid-stage Alzheimer's patients) and Donna Wenzel (mother of 11 children, 6 have neuro/mental conditions) **Vote on where to have meetings:** Meetings alternate will alternate between Charlottesville and Richmond

DMHMRSAS name change not yet approved..

Council decided to alter agenda. Jim Martinez continued taking questions. No committee meetings. Concern regarding how the council should react to further and deeper cuts. Council is asking that existing direct services not be cut. Cuts that are made should have the least impact on the minimum number of people. Vicky Hardy-Murrell made a motion that the MHPC write a position paper on budget cuts which would go Dr. Reinhardt, press release, General Assembly. Points for paper given. Lisa Moore points out that in a position paper we should acknowledge that CSBs were cut by 5% rather than 15% in other areas. Also to mention that stress is high in this economic time and Vets will need services. President –elect Becky Sterling to draft a letter and send to members for review.

IDA Presentation - Paula Price, Executive Director Mental Health America Virginia

Break Out Committees -Not held allowing for continuation of Jim Martinez's presentation and questions and answer period.

Proposed Meeting Dates for 2009

Feb 18

Apr 15

June 17

Aug 19

Oct 21

Dec 2

Meeting adjourned 3:00. Next meeting to be held in Richmond. Date to be determined.

