

## **Minutes for Mental Health Planning Council**

June 10, 2009

Location: Region 10 CSB, Charlottesville, VA

Next Proposed Meeting Date: September 9, 2009

**Attendees:** Becky Sterling (President), Paula Price (MHAV Rep.), Michael Pendrak (Membership), Vicki Hardy-Murrell (Children's Services), Brian Parrish, (Budget), Bonnie Neighbour (At-Large Member), Mira Signer (NAMI Rep.), Ann Benner (Vocal Representative), Susan Williams (Dept. Of Correction), Mary Ann Beall, Donna Wenzel (At-Large member), James Johnson (MHPC Secretary), Donna Sue Harmon, Lisa Goodwin, Alison Hymes (Immediate Past President, David Mangano (Chesterfield Recovery Work Group), Irene Walker-Bolton (Dept. of Education), Melissa Harless (VP Adult Services) , Kenneth Moore (At-Large Member), Anne Burhans

**DMHRSAS Staff:** Jo-Amrah McElroy (Mental Health Planner), Katherine Hunter (Child & Family Services) George Banks (DMHMRSAS) Rhonda Thissen (DMHMRSAS),

**Guests:** Selena Ruffin (MHAV), Jonathan Singleton (MHAV, Minutes), Joanna Harris (VCU Intern), John Otenasek (REACH/VOCAL), *[Meeting was called to order at approximately 10:00a.m]*

**Welcome:** Becky Sterling, MHPC President

**Public Comments:** None today.

### **Special Report**

Anne Burhans reported on the Alzheimer's conference that she attended; her attendance was sponsored by the council. The information she presented included legislature regarding Advance Directives and how they impact the mental health community and Alzheimer's patients.

### **April 2009 Meeting Minutes**

James Johnson, secretary of the council read the April 2009 minutes. The following amendments were requested: Add names of attendees for April 09 meeting (Melissa Harless, Anne Burhans, Alison Haynes); p. 3 excluded that Alison, the immediate past president was presented with a plaque.

**MOTION/VOTE :** Alison Haynes moved that the April 2009 meeting minutes be approved with the stated amendments. Susan Williams second the motion. Passed

### **Membership Report**

Michael Pendrak reported that some of the members of the membership committee met informally to discuss ways to get better representation from other localities. A point of order was raised that no committee meetings should be held outside of the council meetings. Michael clarified that it was not a formal meeting just a brief discussion about increasing membership. Michael requested that the council members investigate ways to get better representation from other parts of the state and from

parents. It was mentioned that the meeting time is a point of concern for parents. The council was asked to consider teleconferencing capabilities to the meetings as an option for attendance for parents. Becky asked that along with the meeting time be tabled for the planning retreat.

### **Fiscal Agent Report**

PAULA PRICE- Fiscal Agent reported that travel has been the largest expense thus far. She asks that any receipts for travel from members, if any be written legibly.

Brian Parrish, chair of the budget committee, raised some concerns about the use of the remaining finances from the block grant. Says spent only \$1500 from Apr-June, still have approximately \$4700 to be used by the end of June.

A concern was raised that the funds are not being maximized. Paula clarified that the funds cannot be committed if they have not been received from the state and the state will not release remaining funds if current funds are not being used.

A question was raised about the use of the funds for training/education of the council members. President Sterling asked that this issue be tabled for the planning retreat but that she and Jo-Amrah will make these decisions through June 30.

It was noted that Mary Ann Beall serves on the education/training committee

### **MHPC Grant Updates**

Jo-Amrah McElroy reported during lunch about the upcoming block grant document. It should be made available to the council early July.

VOCAL conference report video at 11:17am.

*[Lunch break: 11:19 until 12:10pm]*

**Note\*** In December there will be an Election of officers. Becky Sterling (President) requests for a nomination committee. Chairs possible: Alison Hymes and Jo-Amrah McElroy.

### **Old Business**

#### **Strategic Planning Retreat (Update)**

Member requests to hold conferences on own. President Sterling rejected to go into unknown territory.

The date has been confirmed for September 11-12, 2009 and Paula Price-confirmed a hold on rooms in Charlottesville, Hilton Garden Inn. She reported that the other planning logistics such as meeting room, food, etc., have been stalled because of not enough information regarding how many are attending is available.

President Sterling will send an email to the council members regarding the planning retreat and to request topic ideas and names of possible facilitators.

**Adult Services**

*Melissa Harless*

**Children Services**

*Vicky Hardy-Murell*

**Budget Committee**

*Brian Parrish*

**PATH Project**

*Virginia's Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) Program*

**Rhonda Thissen-Explained what PATH does, which provides outreach, engagement, case management and supportive services to consumers with serious mental illness and or co-occurring disorders who are either homeless or at risk of homelessness. Assistance available for SSI benefits, Food stamps, secured housing, medical services, and obtaining shelter.**

*[Break: 1:13p.m. -12 minutes- Resumed at 1:25pm]*

**Block Grant Funded Project Report**

***Robin Hairfield-WeCare, Inc., presented on the Wellness Empowering Consumers and Recovery Environment.***

**DBHDS Report**

***George Bank-Introduction to the consumer service surveys.***

*There are domains used to evaluate children's mental health services, access, cultural competency, family participation in treatment, satisfaction with services, and the outcome of services received through the Community Service Board. There are domains used to evaluate adult surveys: the Consumer perception of access, consumer perception of appropriateness, consumer perception of outcome, and consumer satisfaction with Services provided.*

***Request that non-members who are in the membership process, be allowed attend Strategic Planning Conference retreat. Will discuss next meeting.***

*[Adjournment of Meeting at 2:57p.m.]*