

Virginia Mental Health Planning Council Minutes

August 17, 2011

1604 Santa Rosa Road

Richmond, Va.

Attendees: Robert Friedline, Melissa Harless, Donna Sue Harmon, Katherine Hunter, James Johnson, Paula Price, Mira Signer, Becky Sterling, Susan Williams

Guests: 0

Staff: George Banks, Sharon Lilly, Rhonda Thissen

Absent: Mary Ann Beall, Patricia Beard, Irene Walker Bolton, Anne Burhans, Ann Cutshall, Betty Elzler, Catherine Hannock, Janet Lung, James Martinez, Patrick Meyer, Lisa Moore, Bonnie Neighbour, Chris Owens, Brian Parrish, Steven Peed, Michael Pendrak, Donna Wenzel

Welcome: Vice President Mira Signer opened the meeting and welcomed everyone

Review and Accept Minutes: It was decided that since there was not a quorum present that the minutes be accepted provisionally.

Public Comments: Sharon Lilly will take over for Pat Palmer as Administrative Assistant for the Mental Health Planning Council. Sharon's email addresses is sharon.lilly@mhav.org.

DBHDS Report: Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS)
Report by Rhonda Thissen

Two issues were discussed; the recent Block Grant conference and a review of the draft block grant application.

In preparation for health care reform there will be changes at the federal level that will require change at the state level. In the past block grant funds have been used to fund services. With health care reform there will be requirements to expand the number of people having access to some type of health care coverage. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) believes that with health care reform Medicaid or other payers will cover treatment services so there will not be as much need for block grant funds for treatment services. However, the details are not certain, at this time. SAMHSA and the state are trying to prepare the changes.

This year for the first time the mental health and substance abuse treatment and prevention grant application will be combined. The mental health block grant is ten million dollars with 75% of those funds going to Community Service Boards (CSB). CSB funds are divided 75% to adult

services and 25% to children's services and include outpatient services, emergency services, crisis intervention and other services.

About 50% of the funds DBHDS receives from the General Assembly, the block grant and other sources go to substance abuse prevention and treatment.

Traditionally the block grant has been for one year. This year, in an attempt to alleviate the conflict between the federal fiscal year (October 1 to September 30) and the state's fiscal year (July 1 to June 30) and move to the state's fiscal year, the block grant will be for twenty one months. The next block grant application is due July, 2013.

The current year's application is due September 1, 2011. A draft was emailed to Mental Health Planning Council (MHPC) members for their review. Public comments will be accepted until noon on August 25. Comments can be expressed at this meeting in writing (emailed or faxed) or at the hearing. Formal notice will be sent to the general public today, August 17.

This year's application is very different than in past years. It focuses on what is happening in the state system right now, in community services for mental health and substance abuse treatment. It focuses on the states Creating Opportunities plan for the next twenty one months.

One of the major issues facing the MHPC is the combining of mental health and substance abuse. Having a MHPC is a SAMHSA requirement to receive block grant funds. MHPC is to advise on block grant fund distribution. With the combining of mental health and substance abuse treatment SAMHSA will now require that there be a Behavioral Health Council (BHC) by this time next year. DBHDS will be working with MHPC members and other stakeholders over the coming year to develop the BHC.

It was suggested that in order to keep MHPC members up-to-date on this issue a report on progress be given at every MHPC meeting until the BHC is formed.

Susan Williams reported on the SAMSHA Conference sub-committee.

Much interest was shown in Virginia's initiative Mental Health and Criminal Justice, Crisis Interventions Team (CIT) and Crisis Stabilization. Susan was selected to go to NIC Corrections Training in Colorado for CIT trained correctional and probation officers.

Financial Report: There was \$7,200 unspent MHPC funds at the end of the grant year. For at least the past five years there have been unspent funds. A discussion was held about council funding priorities and needs. A detailed report on how the funds have been spent over the past three years was requested. Mental Health America of Virginia (MHAV) will do a breakdown on spending for each meeting, travel, retreats, etc. Due to a paperwork snafu no MHPC funds have been received this fiscal year. The funds are now in the pipeline and should be received before the October meeting. In the meantime MHAV will cover MHPC expenses. Alternatives Conference applications are out now and there are MHPC funds to support applicants.

Agenda Requests: Report on progress of block grant changes. Financial analysis of MHPC's three year spending trends.

Other: None

Adjourned: 1:40 pm