

**WEST VIRGINIA MENTAL HEALTH PLANNING COUNCIL  
MINUTES  
FRIDAY JANUARY 14, 2005**

PRESENT: Teri Toothman, Bob McConnell, Deborah Jarrell, Ted Johnson, Paul Macom, Pam Akers, Melissa Toothman, David Sanders, Jessica Stewart, Diana Bailey, Angie Bronson, Dewey Berry, Millie Gerbo, Pam Harper, Bob Musick, Melody Waybright, Steve Mason, Vera Warner.

The minutes of the December 10, 2004 meeting were approved as printed.

Call to order and attendance.

Announcements of upcoming conferences and seminars.

Introductions.

Vera Warner was introduced as the new Council Coordinator. Vera has a great deal of experience with mental health issues, programs and services.

Paul Macom will assume the office of secretary (unless someone else really wants to do it).

Block Grant Committee Report - Ted Johnson:

The committee met on Friday January 13, 2005 to review the Announcement of Funding Availability (AFA) document. The Committee recommended the following priorities for Block Grant funding:

- The goals of the President's New Freedom Commission.
- The WVMHPC priorities which were established at the October Retreat.
- A 6th WVMHPC priority of consumer/family centered services.

The Block Grant Committee also recommends that the WCMHPC recommend to the state that a separate AFA for the evaluation of Block Grant funded programs and that the funds for evaluation come from funds other than the Block Grant. Motion accepting this recommendation made, seconded carried.

Members present broke into two interest groups: Adult and Children to discuss legislative priorities. The groups reported back after lunch.

The Children's group identified the following priorities:

1. System of care legislation.

2. Expansion of school based health clinics (establish in schools that don't have a clinic) AND add a mental health component to all of the clinics.
3. Reinstate TANF funds.

The Adult group identified the following priorities:

1. Replace funding for community based services and supports.
2. Devise alternatives to the current preferred drug list.
3. Revise the Chapter 27 definition of addiction. Two suggestions - (1) Reinsert the term "dangerous" into the definition OR (2) eliminate addiction entirely from Chapter 27.

A motion was made to accept these six priorities. Motion seconded and carried.

Membership Committee Report:

There are currently two membership vacancies. The Committee proposed Melody Waybright for membership. Motion made, seconded and carried.

A motion was made requesting the Membership Committee to make recommendations at the next meeting regarding the inclusion of substance abuse seats on the Council. The Committee was asked to consider expanding Council membership to accommodate substance abuse seats. Motion seconded and carried.

A motion was made to poll Comprehensive Community Mental Health Centers to solicit opinion on the Council's suggestions regarding changes to Chapter 27 (substance abuse provisions). Motion seconded and carried.

WVMHPC will attend the NAMI legislative coffee sessions. Motion made to make a request to NAMI that the Council have it's own space on the table and be clearly identified. The motion also included a provision that the Council will pay travel for two persons per session to staff the table. Motion seconded and carried.

Motion was made to send a letter of congratulations from the Council to Martha Walker who has been appointed as the new Secretary of DHHR. The letter is to include an invitation to meet with the Council. Motion seconded and carried.

Motion made to request that the Consumers Association provide the Council treasurer with a financial report on a monthly basis. Motion seconded and carried.

The dates of upcoming meetings were established as follows:

- April 8th - tentatively at Glade Springs
- July 29th - tentatively at Alpine Lake
- October 14 - 15th - tentatively at Oglebay
- January 20, 2006 - Charleston.

Locations will be confirmed as quickly as possible.

Meeting adjourned.