

**WEST VIRGINIA MENTAL HEALTH PLANNING COUNCIL
MINUTES
JANUARY 20, 2006
CHARLESTON, WV**

Welcome - Dave Sanders

Introductions

Roll call. Members present: Angie Ferrari, Pam Harper, Ted Johnson, Pamela Akers, David Sanders, Bob McConnell, Bob Musick, Brandy Blankenship, Bob Hansen, Paul Macom, Jessica Stewart, Randy Housh, Nancy Allison-Schmitt, Melody Waybright, David Majic, Francie Clark, Janet Johnson, Jane McCallister. Ex officio members present: Jackie Chellew, Merritt Moore, Lorie Roberts, Angie Rogers.

Three by laws revisions have been proposed. The membership voted on these revisions by mail. The first revision was to change the name of the Block Grant Committee to the System Monitoring and Evaluation Committee. This change implies a broader function for the committee and the Council. The second revision provided for the addition of six (6) substance abuse seats on the Council. These additional seats would increase Council membership from 36 to 42 seats. The third revision would change the language of the attendance provisions intended to improve member participation at Council meetings. Paul Macom reported that 18 ballots were received. There were 16 yea and 2 nay votes for the first and second revisions. There were 15 yea and 3 nay votes for the third revision. The revisions will take effect immediately.

A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously to accept the vote on the by law revisions.

A presentation on the Block Grant program reviews was given by Ted Johnson. He reminded the membership that the review instrument had been revised. All programs funded by the Block Grant and PATH funds as well as selected programs that were state funded were reviewed. The reviews were done with a focus on the Council priorities of Recovery, Resilience and Reimbursement. Four teams conducted the reviews in two sites. A total of 65 programs, services and activities were reviewed. Preparation for and accomplishment of the reviews took two full weeks. Information from the reviews was given to OBHS. Ted raised a number of possible "next steps" that could further refine the review process and help to shape the service delivery system.

REPORTS FROM STATE AGENCIES

Children's Services

Dave Majic reported for Children's Services. The criteria for school based mental

health programs is being revised. Staff are intensely reviewing and evaluating the current school based programs. As a result of this review some programs will be discontinued.

The suicide prevention program has had an “explosive” success. The program has been nationally recognized. Dave reminded the group that the adolescent suicide prevention criteria was developed in West Virginia and has now been published.

The Children’s division is looking at ways to accomplish more outreach, parent education, etc.

The commission that has been studying out of state placements has made twenty one recommendations. These recommendations have significant implications for the mental health service system. They have been sent to Secretary Walker for review. It is estimated that the twenty one recommendations will be reduced to approximately eighteen. It is unsure when publication will occur.

Sheila Kelly has been hired as the OBHS office director.

Substance Abuse

Merritt Moore reported that substance abuse planning grants are being awarded to most areas of the state.

Merritt discussed the Oxford House model of intervention. West Virginia may fund an effort to educate and get Oxford House facilities set up on West Virginia.

The division will be meeting with providers to determine financial and programmatic needs.

There is current effort to review the Public Inebriate programs in the hope of finding some ways to engage clients during the short time that they are in these programs. Without engaging the client, the PI program is a revolving door.

There is a committee that has been working to get the word “dangerous” re-inserted into the Chapter 27 Commitment statute with regard to substance abuse commitments.

A number of Federal Substance Abuse grants will be available in the near future.

Education

Francie Clark reported the state office of education has been working on recommendations to implement act 2419 for which Federal regulations have not yet been written.

The state Department of Education has undergone some reorganization. As a result all personnel and activities that have to do with instruction are now in the same division.

Adult Mental Health

Linda Atkins reported that the OBHS Improvement Package will focus on community supports in an effort to reduce inpatient bed usage.

Half of SB 141 was passed and will be implemented in July. The 48 hour detention was not included in the part of the bill that was passed.

Vocational Rehabilitation

Janet Johnson reported that there has been a realignment of administrative staff at Voc Rehab.

Bureau For Children and Families

Jane McAllister reported that the number of Child Protective staff has been increased and staff have also received a raise in pay.

A State Police investigative unit has been established to participate in child protective investigations.

Marshall University

MU is now receiving 6 month program data and will be able to report numbers at the next Council meeting. The contract between MU and OBHS is being renegotiated.

The minutes of the October 12-13, 2005 meeting were distributed. Motion made, seconded and passed to accept the minutes as printed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

System Monitoring and Evaluation Committee - Ted Johnson reporting.

This committee will be working with state officials to look at various programs that are or can be moved toward evidence based practices.

The Committee debriefed on the BG review process. What was good, what was problematic. The Committee will begin to refine the process and will add criteria on cultural competence.

Adult Services - Jessica Stewart reporting.

The Committee discussed co-occurring illnesses from the perspective that they are not consistently treated concurrently. Possible solutions include evaluating

the whole person, involving more paid peers in treatment and the establishment of regional help centers which would include community collaboration.

The Committee also discussed the transformation of the mental health system. More peer to peer consultation and contact is needed. There need to be more co-occurring educational programs as well as more aftercare supports.

Children's Services - Melody Waybright reporting.

This Committee expressed a concern about the number of Council members representing children's issues and also raised the issue of having adolescents on the Council. There are three vacant seats on the Council at the present time. The Children's Committee was encourage to recruit Council members to represent children's issues.

Legislative Committee - Dave Sanders reporting.

The Governor has appropriated \$250,000 to be applied to Olmstead compliance.

800 pieces of legislation has been introduced in this legislative session. 30 of these have to do with disabilities and 16 of the 30 need to be followed by the WVMHPC Legislative Committee.

Membership Committee - Paul Macom reporting.

There were three vacant seats on the Council prior to the passage of the by laws revisions which created six substance abuse seats. The Council now has nine vacant seats.

The Committee will be using several media to recruit new Council members.

The Committee recommended David Booth for membership. Motion made, seconded and passed unanimously to accept the Committee's recommendation.

Long time Council member Helen Matlick died this month. Dave Sanders called for a moment of silence to mark her passing. Several members shared memories of Helen.

The next meeting will be held on March 1st - location to be announced.

Motion to adjourn.

Paul Macom