

WV Mental Health Planning Council Meeting
Comfort Inn Suites, Mineral Wells
March 10, 2005

I. CALL TO ORDER AND REVIEW OF MINUTES

Teri Toothman called the meeting to order at @ 10:00 am and, after introductions and calling the roll, Teri noted the absence of a quorum.

Council members present included Teri Toothman, Janet Johnson (DRS), Jane McCallister (BCF), Paul Easton (for Lon Sizemore), Bob Hansen, Dewey Berry, Debbie Toler, Debbie Jarrell and Bob McConnell. Ex officio members in attendance included Jackie Chellew, Elliott Birckhead and Wendy Easton (for Patty Kelley). Vera Warner, Council Coordinator, was also in attendance.

Minutes: Reading and approval of the prior meeting minutes was postponed to the next meeting due to the absence of a quorum.

II. UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Children's Mental Health - The Children's Mental Health Conference will be held June 8 to 10^h at the Radisson Hotel in Morgantown. The Division of Children's Mental Health webpage revisions are in progress. The Division is also putting together a resource manual for social workers.

Adult Mental Health - PATH proposals have been reviewed and scored by a team of volunteers and recommendations submitted to BHMF. Mental health block grant proposals are due on March 21st. The Divisions of Adult Mental Health and Alcoholism and Drug Abuse are giving serious consideration to applying for the Older Adult targeted capacity expansion grant. The Bureau continues to face an over-bedding crisis at the two state-operated facilities, with the census rising as high as 108 at Bateman Hospital a few weeks back. Steps being taken to address this issue include providing funds to two providers for three community-based, transitional living facilities, submitting recommendations to Medicaid on revising its Assertive Community Treatment program instruction and establishing contracts with providers to allow for diversions from the state hospitals to crisis stabilization units.

Bureau for Children and Families - Discussion is in progress about blending funds across bureaus to better address the needs of children in foster care transitioning into the adult system. Revisions are being made within Child Protective Services to address BCF's performance improvement plan.

Division of Rehabilitation Services - Janet Johnson introduced herself as DRS' new representative on the Council.

Division of Juvenile Services - In order to help prevent kids from having to leave the state for treatment, any child adjudicated delinquent who is also in danger of

being placed out of state may be admitted to a DJS staff-secure facility for up to 90 days based on a judge's order (assuming there is an available bed). Juveniles will now be able to go directly to the Davis facility instead of just as step down from Salem.

III. LEGISLATION

The Supreme Court of Appeals' pilot project bill (Senate Bill 191) on revising the involuntary commitment process has passed out of the Senate Judiciary Committee onto the Senate Finance Committee. Reports suggest that this bill is likely to pass the Legislature if it makes its way out of committee. The System of Care legislation (Senate Bill 241) is being hotly debated and may end up being studied during the interims.

IV. ONGOING ISSUES

Jackie Chellev reported on the recent DIG (data infrastructure grant) Conference. West Virginia's 3 year application was not approved but this was not unusual in that only a few multi-year block grant plans were approved. States were encouraged to look at their system as a whole and develop goals and objectives that are systemic issue-based rather than program-based. Jackie will provide more information on this at the April Council meeting.

Teri asked the members present about whether they felt the Council should encourage DHHR to apply for the Mental Health SIG grant. She underlined the fact that the Council would have a role in helping implementing this grant should SAMHSA fund West Virginia's application. CMHS has reportedly encouraged some folks in West Virginia to apply. Bob McConnell made a motion to have Teri write a letter to Secretary Walker encouraging DHHR to apply, which was seconded by Bob Hansen and approved by the members present.

V. COMMUNITY FORUM PLANNING

Jackie suggested holding fewer forums but planning them more carefully. One or two could be held before July and a few could be conducted afterward. Teri and Jackie provided some background on the purpose of the forums and indicated that services such as respite, school-based mental health, transportation, drop in centers and transition services were identified as priorities for funding as a result of feedback received during forums.

Teri suggested holding community roundtable discussions rather than forums in each of the 13 comprehensive center catchment areas. Information about each of the centers could be provided and they could receive suggestions and feedback from local consumers, families and other stakeholders.

Other regional agencies could be included, along with public information gathering, and BCF state-level staff. Utilization of video-conferencing, such as MD-TV, was suggested as a means of pulling together multiple sites and increasing stakeholder participation. Each of the comprehensive centers

reportedly has access to this technology, though some may be better prepared than others to utilize it now.

Teri appointed Bob McConnell to chair an ad hoc committee to coordinate a pilot roundtable event somewhere in the Presteria catchment area. Bob Hansen agreed to work with Bob McConnell on pulling this initial event together.

Panel composition could include all or some of the following stake holders:

- Local DRS staff
- MSFA Staff
- DJS regional staff
- Div. of Corrections staff
- State-level BCF staff
- Housing Authority
- Local consumers and families
- Comprehensive Center Staff
- School system/Education
- WV State Bar
- West Virginia Advocates and/or Legal Aid
- Homeless providers

Invite onto panel. Others could be invited to share written information and to come meet people 1:1 before or after the panel discussion.

Roundtable goal = Share information about regional services, gaps and decrease stigma.

Consider offering the opportunity to utilize agency displays at each site (i.e., DHHR)

Process: Test at Presteria 1st, probably at the Rte. 60 location.

Budget for hospitality at each site - The Council will build the estimated costs for holding these roundtables into next year's budget.

Publicize the forums through local newspapers and let people know in advance where they can send written information about their programs to be provided at the roundtable. A letter of invitation will also have to be developed to send to Council contacts and others.

In order to encourage greater audience participation, people should have an option to submit written questions in advance.

Timeline:

March and April - Facilitator identified, finalize site location and date, develop

roundtable committee for region, develop marketing plan (MHPC and Pretera), and select participants and send invitations

May - Develop list of leading questions to pose to panel members, test MD/TV at each of the center sites and see how many remote locations will be available to participate by videoconferencing, and identify scribe to record comments and suggestions

June - Arrange for refreshments/hospitality and develop evaluation instrument for feedback

VI. BLOCK GRANT REVIEWS

To be discussed in detail at the next meeting

VII. COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Teri appointed and/or re-appointed the following people as Committee Chairs:

Legislative: Dave Sanders

Block Grant: Bob Musick

Membership: Paul Macom

Forum: Bob McConnell

VIII. PROPOSAL REVIEWS

Proposals for mental health block grant funding will be reviewed over 1 1/2 days during March 28th and 29th, which allows for one day to read the proposals and one day to score the proposals. There will be four teams with 5 reviewers on each (including 1 state employee) who will review an estimated 10 and 15 proposals each. Four team leaders will be needed.

IX. NEXT MEETINGS

- April 8th at Glade Springs (near Beckley)
- July 29th in Terra Alta or Shepherdstown
- August - Block Grant Committee (location TBA)
- September - Council Plus (location TBA)
- October 14th and 15th - Annual Retreat at Oglebay
- January 20th - in Charleston

X. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership Committee - Bob McConnell announced that the Committee approved adding additional seats for substance abuse stakeholders and he will be following up on this with Steve Mason. Bob will report back to the Council on this at the April meeting.

Teri will request a financial update on the budget at the April meeting from WVMHCA (the Council's fiscal agent).

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Teri adjourned the meeting at 2:30 pm.