

**WEST VIRGINIA MENTAL HEALTH PLANNING COUNCIL
MINUTES
FRIDAY APRIL 8, 2005
GLADE SPRINGS, WV**

PRESENT: Pamela Akers, Diana Bailey, Dewey Berry, Sheila Hicks, Debbie Jarrell, Ted Johnson, Bob McConnell, Debbie Toler, David Sanders, Nancy Allison-Schmitt, Jessica Stewart, Melissa Toothman, Teri Toothman, Melody Waybright, Jane McCallister, Lon Sizemore, Janet Johnson, David Majic, Merritt Moore, Paul Macom and Vera Warner.

The minutes of the March 10, 2005 meeting were approved as printed.

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Teri Toothman. Attendance taken, quorum present..

Council Coordinator Vera Warner requested that members use the RSVP forms for meetings. The Council has to pay on a "per head" basis for meeting sites. Its important to know how many members will attend. Also Council has to pay for rooms whether they are used or not.

The minutes of the March 10th meeting were approved as printed.

A brief financial report was given by Paul Macom. Paul noted that the goal is to produce a monthly financial report. He has not yet been able, however, to get the numbers to balance. It appears that the Council balance as of the end of February is \$23,035.

Scott Miller gave a presentation on Family Leadership First. The first annual conference was held two weeks ago. Scott expressed the hope that the Planning Council will participate in next year's conference. The goal is to establish peer to peer networks in ten counties this year and have networks statewide within the next three years.

Dave Majic reported for the Children's Division. The Division is in the process of reviewing and making decisions on allocations for the coming year.

Merritt Moore reported for the Substance Abuse Division. The Division is finishing allocation meetings with providers. The Division will be sponsoring a three day conference - West Virginia Methamphetamine Summit. An AFA for adolescent services has been sent out.

Lon Sizemore reported for Juvenile Justice. Lon noted the trend of an increasing numbers of juveniles in the juvenile justice system who have severe psychiatric disorders. DHHR has been asked for funding to establish an adolescent mental health unit within the JJ system.

Barbara Edmonds reported for Adult Mental Health. The Division is currently review Block Grant proposals. Allocations will be made next week. An AFA has been released for evaluation of block grant programs and PATH. It is not clear what role, if any, the Council would have in the evaluation process once it is established. It would appear that the Council has not been a part of the development of the AFA. Long discussion of this issue. How will the evaluation process look in the future? What organization will play what part? Council Chair will appoint an ad hoc committee to work with the state on the development of the evaluation process.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

David Sanders reported for the Legislative Committee and provided an update on bills being considered by the State Legislature. There was discussion and continuing concern expressed about the probable cause bill (SB 191).

Bob McConnell reported for the Membership Committee. In response to a request made during the January meeting the Membership Committee considered the issue of substance abuse seats and recommends the addition of 6 Council seats for substance abuse representatives.

There are currently two vacant Council seats. Bob proposed Brenda Coleman for membership. Motion made, seconded and carried to accept Ms. Coleman for membership.

Paul Macom reported on by-laws revisions. The membership committee was asked during the January meeting to draft revisions to the by laws to provide for the inclusion of substance abuse representation on the Council. There was lengthy discussion of the proposed revisions. Concern about how the seats would be allocated (e.g. providers, adult, adolescent, etc.) Should the additional seats be designated as "substance abuse seats" or should it be the responsibility of the membership committee to insure substance abuse representation. It was pointed out that the Council does not have the mandate to monitor substance abuse services unless the state officials would be in agreement. The revisions to the by laws will be on the agenda for vote at the July 29th meeting.

There was discussion of the Council's required seats. The designated representatives from Education and Housing seldom, if ever, attend. Council Chair will contact Department heads to ask for replacements for currently designated members who do not regularly attend meetings.

A motion was made to create a list serve restricted to Council members. Motion seconded and carried.

The first Public Forum will be held in the Huntington area and is tentatively scheduled for sometime in June.

A detailed written debrief report on the recent Block Grant Program reviews was prepared by Ted Johnson and distributed to Council. In general the report indicates that the process went well and there was general satisfaction expressed by both reviewers and grantees. There was, of course, some constructive criticism from both reviewers and grantees. A motion was made that the Block Grant Committee prepare recommendations for revisions to the process. These recommendations will be presented at the next meeting. Motion seconded and carried.

Meeting adjourned.

Next meeting: July 29th at Alpine Lake Resort in Terra Alta.

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.