

West Virginia Mental Health Planning Council
Annual Retreat
Hawk's Nest State Park
October 29 - 30, 2004

Present: Lori Roberts, Sheila Hicks, ,Jessica Stewart, Bob McConnell, Debbi Toler, Debbie Jarrell, Mary Miller, Pamela Harper, Brandy Blankenship, Steve Mason, Patty Kelley, Jackie Chellew, Ted Johnson, Dave Sanders, Walt DeWalt, Teri Toothman, Paul Macom.

Friday, October 29, 2005

Report: Teri Toothman, Jackie Chellew, and Pat Kelly reported on the outcomes of the regional Peer Review for the Block Grant submitted September 1, 2004.

West Virginia was praised for the organization and operations of the Planning Council. Reviewers also commented positively on the State using Block Grant funds for small grants to many agencies and organizations.

Reviewers noted all States in the Region had difficulty in writing performance objectives and measures. The panel recommended that West Virginia seek technical assistance for this requirement.

Both the Child and the Adult Plans were approved for one year instead of a three-year period. It was noted that the Planning Council has vacancies in the required Medicaid and Housing seats. The Child Plan needs a revision to add information on training emergency responders.

Presentation: Jackie and Patty initiated a discussion about what the Council can do relative to the Block Grant - planning, writing, and monitoring. They requested formation of a committee that could/would meet monthly for planning. There was discussion about sustainability of program/services funded by the Block Grant. It was noted that the Council is one responsible party in relationship to sustainability and the monthly meetings might include discussion on this issue. Such a committee needs to act soon to review and propose Council comments on the State's Implementation Report due in December, recommend funding priorities for the Block Grant for State Fiscal Year 2006, and prepare to review responses to an Announcement of Fund Availability.

Committee formed: A Block Grant committee was named: Ted Johnson, chair; Bob Musick, Angie Ferrari, Brandy Blankenship, Dave Sanders, Teri Toothman, Pam Harper, and Tammy Lemon. Jackie Chellew and Patty Kelley (or Wendy Easton) will also participate in committee meetings. The committee will meet Thursday, November 18, 2004 starting at 1:00 p.m. at Valley HealthCare System in Morgantown. Jackie and/or Patty will send information to the committee before the meeting.

Presentation: Jackie, Patty, and Elliott Birkhead joined in a PowerPoint presentation (handout attached) concerning the basics of what it takes to create the Block Grant application.

Discussion: In discussion that followed, these points were made:

- (1) The Block Grant is becoming more data-based; the Council and State should make use of the data.
- (2) Concerning the goal of more safe and affordable housing, Mary Miller noted that she learned that in Ohio, Habitat for Humanity is helping to make housing available for people with mental illnesses.
- (3) Teri Toothman noted that the State's Inclusion Campaign is more of a campaign for inclusion of people with mental retardation or another developmental disability.

Presentation: A brief video tape of a speech by Kathryn Power was presented. She is the Director of the Center for Mental Health Services. In the video, she discussed the importance of Mental Health Planning and Advisory Councils and goals of the President's New Freedom Commission.

Long-Range Planning: Walt DeWalt, Chief Finance Officer for Valley HealthCare in Morgantown, facilitated discussion for the Council's retreat for long-range planning. Complete notes relevant to the facilitated discussions are attached.

Saturday, October 30, 2005

Long-Range Planning: Walt continued facilitating discussions. Notes are attached.

Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Planning Council will be Friday, December 3, 2005 at Comfort Inn in Mineral Wells (or alternative to be announced). The agenda will include:

- Information from Kim Walsh on the State Homeless Coalition;
- Information from Deb Dodd drill on the number of children placed out of state;
- Information on medication algorithm by Ted Johnson;
- Information on System of Care for children by Teri Toothman; and
- Information on transportation by Lori Roberts and Dave Sanders.

Membership Committee Report: Paul Macom reported on a membership committee meeting. He said the Bureau for Medicaid Services had replaced Jim Plitt with Pat Winston. This appointment will also meet one of the requirements listed at the Peer Review of the Block Grant application. Paul said that Jo Knotts had resigned from the Council, creating a vacancy that needs to be filled. Paul nominated Pam Akers from Bluefield and Nancy Allison-Schmitt from the Eastern Panhandle to be members of the Council. It was MSA (Debbie Toler/Pam Harper) to elect these two individuals to the Council. It was noted that Lori Roberts will replace Jo Knotts on the membership committee.

Adjourn: There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting adjourned.