

**WEST VIRGINIA MENTAL HEALTH PLANNING COUNCIL
MINUTES
November 3, 2006
MORGANTOWN, WV**

Call to order.

Roll Call. Quorum established.

The minutes of the June 9, 2006 meeting were reviewed. Motion made to accept minutes as printed. Motion seconded and carried.

The minutes of the October 13, 2006 meeting were reviewed. Motion made to accept minutes as printed. Motion seconded and carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Susan Smith read an essay on housing, homelessness and homeless shelters. The essay included graphic descriptions of homeless life. Susan lived in a tent along the Monongahela River for one and a half years. She raised the issue of the possibility of acquiring land to enable homeless persons to get back to a life with meaning.

The new CEO of Valley Health Systems, Scott Graham was introduced. Mr Graham has past experience with psychiatric rehabilitation (Boston University). He will be advocating for adequate supports for the mentally ill.

REPORTS FROM REQUIRED SEATS

□ Elliott Birkhead, Director of Adult Mental Health Services reported on the Care Coordination initiative. It is intended to provide services that Medicaid no longer pays for. The purpose is to reduce recidivism at the state hospitals.

The Consumers Association will be initiating a peer program to implement a care coordination program. Training is currently taking place using the psychiatric rehabilitation model. Consumers should be involved in the planning of care coordination services in all areas of the state. Once the programs are implemented outcomes will be measured including number of persons served and the decrease in hospital utilization.

□ Leslie Summers reported for the Children's Mental Health Services. The Children's division is working on school based mental health programs. A small grant is available for parent education programs.

□ Bob Musik reported on suicide prevention. A \$1.2 million, 3 year grant has been received to establish an Aspen program. A program director has been

hired. The program will use a team approach and will be piloted in Kanawha County which has the highest child suicide rate. The suicide prevention focus for the current year is on senior citizens.

□ Steve Mason reported for the Substance Abuse Division. The Division is attempting to start several facilities on the Oxford House model which is often referred to as a "3/4 house. The Division will target high need areas around the state for this program.

The Division plans to fund 8 fellowship homes. An association of the homes will be formed.

There is a need for co-occurring residential programs. The division is attempting to develop several of this type of program. Consumers would initially come from state hospital MICA programs. The first of these programs will be implemented in Charleston this month.

There are funds to develop more mental health drug courts. At the present time there are 2 operating in WV. The courts are a diversion process.

Twelve counties have been funded to implement Teen Courts. These are intended to be both prevention and diversion mechanisms.

The concept of Receiving Centers is being studied. A Receiving Center would be a safe place where an individual could be assessed, have the opportunity to vent or talk over their life situation. The intent is to take pressure off hospital emergency rooms and law enforcement.

PRIDE program participants are coming to WV for a conference April 11-14, 2007.

□ Melody Waybright reported for Education. Policy 2419 is up for review and comment. It is available on the Department of Education website.

□ Vocational Rehabilitation - no report.

□ Criminal Justice - no report.

□ Housing - no report.

□ Jane McCallister reported for Social Services. The big issue is out of home placements. Commission recommendations are now on the website/

The System of Care will be expanded statewide by next October.

There is a focus on transitioning youth from foster homes to the community. When adolescents who have been placed in foster homes reach adult status there has been no good plan to transition them to the community.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE PLANNING COUNCIL

Accomplishments of the Council over the past year were enumerated.

SWOT analysis was completed and has had a significant impact on the Council not the least of which was to create a clearer vision.

The Council infrastructure has been improved and will continue to improve.

A Plan Of Operation has been completed.

A work plan has been completed.

The coordination between Marshall University and the Council continues to develop and strengthen.

Evaluation and review of Crisis Services across the state will be completed in the very near future.

CHALLENGES

The Council needs to be promoted to a far greater degree. There is very little recognition of the Council in the greater state bureaucracy.

Non-attendance of persons appointed to required seats is a chronic problem.

REPORT OF THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

The Membership Committee recommended the following individuals to fill Substance Abuse Seats: J. K. McAtee, Karen Shimmel, Kimberly Murphy, Deborah Hansen and Michael Pauley. Motion by Deb Toler, seconded by Jane McAllister to accept the committee's recommendation. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

The Membership Committee recommended the following individuals to fill vacant seats: Linda Pauley and Lorrie Roberts. Motion by Bob Musik, seconded by Sheila Hicks to accept the recommendation of the Committee. Motion carried with Nancy Allison-Schmitt recusing herself from the vote.

Representatives from Marshall University provided reports on Block Grant programs. These reports are available on the Council web site:

There was no old business to come before the Council.

The next meeting will be on February 2, 2007 in Mineral Wells.

Meeting adjourned.

Paul Macom