



Region 6 Behavioral Healthcare

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Behavioral Health Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes March 4, 2009

Advisory Members Present:

Mary Angus
Brian Paulsen
Mike Smith

HHS Staff Present: none

Region 6 Staff Present: Patti Jurjevich

Recorder: Michelle Juon

1. Welcome, Roll Call, and Introductions

Brian Paulsen volunteered to serve as chair and called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Since a quorum was not present, no action was taken on approving the February meeting minutes.

3. Approval of Agenda

Since a quorum was not present, no action was taken.

4. Administrator's Report – Patti Jurjevich

Patti Jurjevich presented a handout on the Health & Human Services RFQ process for Child Protective Services Out-of-Home Care. This document details which agencies are still being considered for a contract. Ms. Jurjevich stated that the RFQ process does impact the ICCU. Region 6 hopes to partner with one or more of the awarded agencies to continue providing services to identified youth.

5. Presentation on Homelessness – Carole Boye, Community Alliance and Erin Porterfield, Metro Area Continuum of Care for the Homeless (MACCH)

Erin Porterfield from MACCH gave a presentation about her agency and the services offered.

Based on their most recent Point in Time Count, MAACH estimates that 1,270 people in the area are homeless. Carole Boye asked about this number and how it compares to previous years. Ms. Porterfield stated that the numbers have gone down, but due mostly in part to changes in HUD's definition of homeless. Ms. Boye added that is very difficult to count an exact number of homeless in the area.

Mary Angus asked if MACCH is working with veterans and the Hispanic population. Ms. Porterfield stated that they are working with both populations. The number of homeless people who are Hispanic is lower than usual, as this population is more likely to stay with others rather than go to a shelter.

Carole Boye spoke briefly about the homeless services offered by Community Alliance through the Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) program. Ms. Boye stated that many veterans refuse to admit their status due to a lack of response from the Veterans Affairs system. When working with the homeless, Ms. Boye said that a low-stress approach tends to work the best.

Ms. Boye stated that Community Alliance currently has seven PATH workers that serve people, and their case load is approximately 35:1. Due to rule changes from HUD, there are many challenges in continuing to work with the homeless. On 7/1/09, the amount of PATH dollars will be reduced by 45%. In July 2010, another \$50,000 will go away. Instead of serving 500-600 people per year, that number will be reduced to about 200.

Mary Angus asked what will happen to people who cannot be served due to the loss in funding. Ms. Boye stated that they have had 18 shelter referrals in one week alone. The loss in funding will surely have an impact on the behavioral health system. Ms. Boye stated that Community Alliance has housing vouchers for 21 people who meet the HUD definition of homeless with mental illness.

Mary Angus also asked if previous/past persons are involved with MACCH. Ms. Porterfield stated that they are involved, and that they are working with both the League of Human Dignity and the Center for Independent Living.

Ms. Jurjevich asked if any other programs will be affected by the reduction of PATH dollars. Ms. Boye stated that no other specific programs are being affected as it relates to behavioral health.

There are funds for prevention of homelessness with examples in the most recent stimulus package passed by Congress, but no clear definition of case management. The focus is more on prevention rather than supportive services.

Ms. Jurjevich and Brian Paulsen thanked Ms. Boye and Ms. Porterfield for their presentation.

6. Update on BHAC By-Laws and Membership – Patti Jurjevich

Patti Jurjevich stated that the revised by-laws were approved by the Governing Board at their last meeting. Ms. Jurjevich added that she will be sending out a description of the committee for members to read and approve before it goes out for publicity.

Brian Paulsen asked how many seats are currently open. Ms. Jurjevich stated that there are five seats to be filled.

7. 2009 Legislation – Patti Jurjevich

Patti Jurjevich provided a handout from NABHO which details the bills currently before the Nebraska Legislature. Ms. Jurjevich pointed out several bills which relate to behavioral health:

- LB 601: Provide for a Medicaid waiver for community-based mental health services. Ms. Jurjevich indicated strong support for this bill.
- LB 603: Adopt the Behavioral Health Workforce Act and provide funding. There is lots of support for this bill; it is currently out of committee.
- LB 346: Require the Dept. of Health & Human Services to provide services relating to children's behavioral health. This bill is prioritized by Sen. Gwen Howard. Ms. Jurjevich stated that we support the services and framework, but have problems with the funding.
- LB 356: Provide behavioral health services for children without parental relinquishment of custody. This bill would allow for expansion of the Professional Partner program and more services for children.

Ms. Jurjevich stated that HHS Budget hearings will take place on March 23rd and 24th in Lincoln. She also added that the \$3.5 million from the regional centers are not new dollars; Region 6 just hasn't seen them yet.

8. Updates – Patti Jurjevich

- a. **One-Time Funding** – A timeline for funding allocation was included in the packet.
- b. **Continuation Funding Planning Process** – A timeline for funding allocation was included in the packet.
- c. **Network System Coordination** – A memo from Taren Petersen concerning network management updates was included in the packet.

9. Contract Status Reports for the Period Ending January 31, 2009

Patti Jurjevich spoke briefly about the contract status reports. This is the time of year when Region 6 begins examining the reports for the re-allocation of funds. Ms. Jurjevich added that Region 6 is also preparing for the FY 2010 budgeting process.

10. Public Comment

The committee once again thanked Erin Porterfield and Carole Boye for their informative presentation.

11. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Prepared By: Michelle Iron

Date: 4/1/2009

Approved By: [Signature]

Date: 4/1/2009