



Region 6 Behavioral Healthcare

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Behavioral Health Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes August 5, 2009

Advisory Members Present:

Mary Angus
Ann Ebsen, Chair
Donna Mahlendorf
Duane Wilcox

Advisory Members Absent:

Brian Paulsen
Mike Smith

Region 6 Staff Present: Taren Petersen

Recorder: Amy Lett

1. **Welcome, Roll Call, and Introductions**
Ann Ebsen called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.
2. **Approval of Meeting Minutes for May 6, 2009 and June 3, 2009**
There was not a quorum at today's meeting so no official vote was taken.
3. **Approval of Agenda**
There was not a quorum at today's meeting so no official vote was taken.
4. **Administrator's Report – Taren Petersen**
Regarding the recruitment process for new BHAC members: Ms. Petersen stated Region 6 has received applications from a potential Douglas County representative and a potential Consumer Advisory Team (CAT) representative. Patti Jurjevich will present the applications for approval at the August Regional Governing Board meeting.
5. **RFQ for Peer Support Specialists – Ken Timmerman**
 - a. **Review of RFQ Process and Funding Recommendation**
A handout was provided in members' packets detailing the review process and participants. Mr. Timmerman reviewed this information with those in attendance. There were a total of 9 applications received and Region 6 thanked all those who applied for their time and efforts.

Ms. Petersen stated she was very pleased to see so many applications and perhaps if there are more dollars in the future, we can open this again.

The review committee has suggested the following agencies/plans be awarded funding:

- Community Alliance Rehabilitation Services – \$50,000 for 2 part-time Peer Support Positions as of October 2009.
- Catholic Charities - \$100,000 for 4 part-time Peer Support Positions as of November 2009.
- Douglas County Community Mental Health Center (DCCMHC) - \$50,000 for 2 part-time Peer Support Positions as of October 2009.

b. BHAC Recommendation to Regional Governing Board

Ann Ebsen proposed that those in attendance at today's meeting put forward a recommendation to the Governing Board to fund the agencies/programs as proposed. All BHAC members in attendance agreed.

6. One-Time Funding Youth Projects – Taren Petersen

See handout. Ms. Petersen said this handout is informational only; she does not need the committee to vote on this.

Ms. Petersen noted some trainings have already been planned and that there still is more planning to be done. Because these are one-time dollars, there are limits on what projects can be done.

Duane Wilcox said that as a Governing Board member, he knows how important it is that these dollars be used properly in the community. He appreciates the work the Region has done and looks forward to the other ideas they come up with.

7. Network System Coordination Update – Taren Petersen

See handout. Ms. Petersen drew special attention to the fact that Region 6 Behavioral Healthcare is offering scholarships for consumers to attend the Alternatives National Conference here in Omaha this fall; applications have been received and some people have already been selected to receive a ticket to the conference. Region 6 is also providing transportation. The ticket price is \$500.00 but we are hoping we can get a discount on that.

There has been discussion about getting a break out room for local people to meet before, during and after the conference to discuss ideas.

The State is giving out scholarships but Region 6 has not heard what/if anything the other Regions are doing in relation to this conference.

8. Contract Status Report for the Period Ending June 30, 2009

Handouts were included in the packets for BHAC members.

BHAC members are welcome to contact Darren Weis or Taren Petersen with any questions that may come up.

Ms. Petersen noted that Region 6 was able to shift some funding as requested by Providers.

9. Public Comment

- Ann Ebsen noted she is on the State Advisory Committee on Substance Abuse Services and she requested that funding start being reported to that committee much like Region 6's Contract Status Reports. She finds the Region's reports very helpful and informative.
- John Sheehan of Douglas County Community Mental Health Center (DCCMHC) noted the implementation of LB 403 (Require verification of lawful presence in the United States for certain public benefits, public employment, contracting with public bodies, and tax incentive programs) which is to take effect on October 1, 2009. This will require Providers to ask the immigration status of all persons they serve and if the person does not have a valid status, Providers are not to treat the person using public dollars. Eligibility for public benefits shall be verified through the Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements Program (SAVE) operated by the United States Department of Homeland Security or an equivalent program designated by the United States Department of Homeland Security.

Ms. Petersen noted that the State has advised Region 6 that any contracts signed prior to 10/1/09 could be grandfathered in until the end of that contract period; this would mean this would not impact our system until 6/30/10. Ms. Petersen added this has not been confirmed in writing and we need to be aware of the possibility this could be effective 10/1/09.

Other concerns were discussed such as 1) how often agencies have to check records in the event their status changes and 2) possible HIPAA violations. Mr. Sheehan noted that he understood that part of the law requires agencies to report the number of people they are not able to serve because of immigration status...reporting will only require the number of people, not any names.

Carole Boye of Community Alliance said that probably 1% of their current client base would be affected by this.

Ann Ebsen asked what will happen to people that are court ordered to participate and the children that were not born here and their parents are here illegally. Eleanor Devlin of NOVA Therapeutic Community stated that Medicaid does apply a special billing number for minors including those that are not U.S. citizens.

Ms. Petersen said that Region 6 Behavioral Healthcare has asked the State for technical assistance and training on this new law. Ann Vogel of DHHS-Division of Behavioral Health is helping to create policies and procedures at the State level and has said they will provide trainings once the policies and procedures are completed.

Ms. Petersen said we will keep BHAC members updated as we learn more.

Alice Drake, Region 6 Behavioral Healthcare's Manager of Youth Services, noted that Nebraska Appleseed is presenting information on LB 403 at The Juvenile Justice and Provider Forum's Behavioral Health Committee meeting on September 2, 2009, beginning at 2:00 pm at Heartland Family Service, 2101 South 42nd Street. All in attendance at today's BHAC meeting would be welcome to attend that meeting. Ms. Lett will forward details of the Nebraska Appleseed meeting to BHAC members via email.

10. **Adjourn**
Meeting adjourned.

Prepared By: Amy M. Lett

Date: 9/2/2009

Approved By: A. E. S. W.

Date: 9/2/2009