



Region 6 Behavioral Healthcare

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Behavioral Health Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes September 2, 2009

Advisory Members Present:

Mary Angus
Jo Lynn Coles
Ann Ebsen, Chair
Donna Mahlendorf
Duane Wilcox

Advisory Members Absent:

Brian Paulsen
Mike Smith
Julie Eggert

Region 6 Staff Present: Taren Petersen

Recorder: Amy Lett

1. Welcome, Roll Call, and Introductions

Ann Ebsen called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

2. Welcome of New Members

Ms. Ebsen, on behalf of the BHAC, welcomed newly appointed member Jo Lynn Coles. Ms. Coles will represent Douglas County.

Ms. Coles stated she has worked in the Behavioral Health field for over 30 years. She is interested to see how this body operates and looks forward to working with everyone.

Ms. Ebsen also noted that Julie Eggert was also recently appointed by the Governing Board to the BHAC to represent the Consumer Advisory Team. Ms. Eggert was unable to attend today's meeting.

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes for May 6, 2009, June 3, 2009 and August 5, 2009

Approval of the meeting minutes from May 6, 2009, June 3, 2009 and August 5, 2009, passed unanimously upon roll call vote.

4. Approval of Agenda

Mary Angus made a motion to approve the BHAC Agenda for 9/2/09. Donna Mahlendorf seconded the motion. Approval of the agenda passed upon voice vote.

5. Administrator's Report – Taren Petersen

Ms. Petersen noted the Behavioral Health Advisory Committee member list was included in the packets. The form noted the members' contact information as well as their term number and term end date. Members would be eligible to serve for a second term. Mary Angus made a motion to approve the BHAC member list. Roll call vote was taken and the form was unanimously approved.

6. RFQ for Community Support Mental Health – Taren Petersen

a. Review of RFQ Process and Funding Recommendation

A handout was provided in members' packets detailing the review process and the participants; Ms. Petersen reviewed this information with those in attendance. The review committee has suggested the following agencies/plans be awarded funding to expand their current community support services:

- Community Alliance – \$117,895
- Lutheran Family Services - \$134,712

Ann Ebsen asked if they are adding staffing. Ms. Petersen said yes, so they can serve more people by expanding their existing services; between the two agencies, another 100 consumers will be served with these extra dollars.

Ms. Petersen said these were part of the Continuation dollars discussed in previous meetings.

Ms. Ebsen said she would be interested to hear a presentation on this level of care at a future BHAC meeting and would like to know how peers can be involved with this level of care.

b. BHAC Recommendation to Regional Governing Board

Donna Mahlendorf made a motion to approve the funding recommendation as presented to the BHAC. Mary Angus seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved by a roll call vote.

7. RFQ for Intensive Community Services – Taren Petersen

a. Review of RFQ Process and Funding Recommendation

A handout was provided in members' packets detailing the review process and the participants; Ms. Petersen reviewed this information with those in attendance. It was stated this program is much like Community Support for Mental Health except the level of care is much more intense.

Ms. Petersen recommended that a presentation on Intensive Community Services (ICS) should be done at the same time as a presentation on Community Support-Mental Health to help point out the similarities and differences of the two programs. The review committee recommends the Salvation Army be awarded \$116,725 to expand their current intensive community services program.

Ms. Ebsen asked what consumers would use this service. Ms. Petersen said residential rehab or any residential level of care. ICS started as a result of reform in an effort to move people out of the Regional Centers and wrap intensive services around them to help transition people back into the community. This service would most likely NOT be used by people needing secure residential.

Community Alliance and Salvation Army both currently have this service – this recommendation would expand Salvation Army’s existing program.

Jessica Jones of the Salvation Army said that housing will be made available for these additional slots; she was not sure how many of the units are handicapped accessible. Currently there are 26 and this RFQ would add 10 more openings.

Duane Wilcox suggested the recommended agencies for both RFQ’s attend the Governing Board meeting on 9/16/09 to answer any questions the Board may have.

Ms. Angus asked presenters speak to whether or not there is a way for peers to move up in the agency and about physical accessibility for their services; are there bus routes and are they handicapped accessible? Ms. Angus noted on July 30, 2009, she attended the signing of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

b. BHAC Recommendation to Regional Governing Board

Donna Mahlendorf made a motion to approve the funding recommendation as presented to the BHAC. Mary Angus seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved by a roll call vote.

8. RFQ for Douglas County Crisis Response Team – Taren Petersen

Currently Sarpy and Douglas counties have crisis response teams. Region 6 is looking at designing a crisis response team for Douglas County. Another planning session is being held this week. Ms. Petersen hopes to issue an RFQ in September for this although we may have to move it back.

Ms. Ebsen asked if we have received good data from the other county’s teams. Ms. Petersen stated that Joe Kenney collects data for Region 6; this includes response times. BHAC members asked that Joe Kenney begin including this information as part of his monthly piece in the Network System Coordination Update.

Duane Wilcox asked if this program is working in Dodge County. Ms. Petersen said yes, we have continued the training with law enforcement so all law enforcement are informed of how the program works and can benefit them.

9. LB 603 Planning – Taren Petersen

See handout. Region 6 received dollars due to the passing of LB 603 to help serve the younger population. The State is starting a hotline and there will be support services for that line. The Regions’ plans on how they propose to spend their extra dollars are due to the State by 9/15/09. Region 6 has narrowed down to 2 pilot projects to be up and running by 1/1/10. The first year (which is only half of the fiscal year), Region 6 will get \$195,000. The second year and every year after, Region 6 will get close to \$400,000.

Questions were raised about the difference between the State’s proposed hotline and the current Abuse and Neglect Hotline. Ms. Petersen said the newer line connected with LB 603 will actually be more of a help/referral line than a hotline.

Ms. Ebsen asked how we partner with these 2 phone lines so that we do not have a duplication of services.

Ms. Petersen said the State has issued an RFP for an agency to run the helpline. She will review the RFP more closely to see if it addresses questions such as:

- Will staff be able to do a direct transfer from the help line to the hotline and vice versa so people only have to make one call (concerns that callers may not hang up and call back to another number).
- Is there a requirement that all calls need to be reported or will callers remain anonymous?

Ann Ebsen asked that we put this item on the agenda again in October to get answers to the questions brought up at this meeting.

The proposed pilot projects were discussed:

- Project 1 – Rapid Response Professional Partner Position(s)
 - Currently Douglas County law enforcement gets approximately 5 calls per week from parents wanting to relinquish rights to their children. This new position(s) would work with Douglas County law enforcement to get a response to these parents within 24 hours of their phone call to hook the families up with resources for their situation.
 - The idea is that if this project works, we could branch out to the other County Attorney's offices throughout Region 6.
 - Region 6 would hire two professional partners and give them each a case load of 12.
- Project 2 – Douglas County Mobile Crisis Team
 - The Douglas County Mobile Crisis Team would include therapists specializing in working with youths.

Ann Ebsen asked if Taren would let BHAC members know if the Professional Partners involved could have some sort of special training to deal with youths ages 18 – 19. Ms. Petersen said that Region 6 recently hired a Professional Partner to specialize in assisting transition age youths and we hope to add a second position like this within the year. Ms. Petersen also noted that Alice Drake still attends the Transitional Resources for Youth (TRY) meetings which bring agencies together to discuss specific cases so that people do not fall through the cracks.

Duane Wilcox questioned why the funds are not being used for the other counties during the first six months; he understands that Region 6 would like to test out how the program is going to work but would like to see the other counties involved sooner rather than later.

Ms. Ebsen suggested that the program could be set up to take the information from all of the County Attorneys in Region 6 and the Professional Partners can then follow up the cases. She said when someone calls the County Attorney's office she would like someone in that office to be able to refer callers to Region 6 or another agency that could assist them. She asked that Ms. Petersen keep BHAC members updated on this.

Ms. Coles asked if the 90 days noted for the average length of stay is a sufficient amount of time for a case. She added that we need to look at the scope of the position so it is not too broad.

Ms. Ebsen is not sure what the revised job description of a Health and Human Services case worker will be based upon the changes they are currently experiencing.

Ms. Petersen noted that Region 6 was only recently told that the plan for these funds is due by September 15 and noted that Region 6 is concerned about doing a good job in a short amount of time. We are doing our best to utilize the dollars for maximum potential with such a short amount of planning time.

10. Network System Coordination Update - Taren Petersen

See handout. Ms. Petersen noted that CRT is still doing a great job with their diversion rate. Katie Hruska stated that over the last year the diversion rate has gone from 84% to 90%.

11. Contract Status Report for the Period Ending July 31, 2009

Handouts were included in the packets for BHAC members. It was noted it is very early in the year and these numbers will become more meaningful as the year progresses and we can see if agencies are drawing down their funds too fast or not fast enough. BHAC members are welcome to contact Darren Weis or Taren Petersen with any questions that may come up.

12. Public Comment

- John Sheehan, Douglas County Community Mental Health Center (DCCMHC) noted that his agency received licensing from the State to provide substance abuse treatment. DCCMHC has hired a clinician to do outpatient c.d. evaluations. Ms. Ebsen asked Mr. Sheehan to report back to BHAC members in a month or so to let them know how things are going. Ms. Coles noted this has been a challenge not having substance abuse treatment at DCCMHC and is very pleased for them.
- Alice Drake reminded those in attendance that Nebraska Applesseed is presenting information on LB 403 at The Juvenile Justice and Provider Forum's Behavioral Health Committee meeting today, September 2, 2009, beginning at 2:00 pm at Heartland Family Service, 2101 South 42nd Street. Implementation of LB 403 does take effect October 1, 2009. There are concerns that people who have families where children may be citizens but the parents are not...how agencies are to interpret the law if a parent of a U.S. citizen is ordered to participate in treatment but the parent is not a U.S. citizen.

13. Adjourn

Donna Mahlendorf made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Duane Wilcox seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned.

Prepared By: Amy M. Lott

Date: 11/19/09

Approved By: [Signature]

Date: 11/19/09