



## Region 6 Behavioral Healthcare

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### Behavioral Health Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes July 6, 2016

**Advisory Members Present:**

Dean Loftus, Chair  
Donald Rashid, Vice Chair  
Brenda Carlisle  
Mary Jane Karabatsos  
John Sheehan  
Michael Touzin

**Advisory Members Absent:**

Jerry Kruse  
Michele Missel  
Chandra Petersen  
Shawn Shanahan

**Region 6 Staff Present:**

Patti Jurjevich  
Taren Petersen

**Recorder:** Amy Lett

**1. Welcome and Roll Call**

Dean Loftus, Chair, called the meeting to order. Roll call of members determined there was not a quorum.

**2. Approval of Meeting Minutes for April 6, 2016**

Because there was not a quorum today, approval of the April minutes will be postponed to the next meeting.

**3. Approval of Agenda**

Because there was not a quorum, there was not a vote to approve the agenda.

**4. Administrator's Report – Patti Jurjevich**

Ms. Jurjevich had nothing to report at this time.

## **5. Spotlight on Levels of Care – Taren Petersen**

### **a. Supported Employment – Aileen Brady and Denise Stuart, Community Alliance Rehabilitation Services**

See handouts. Supported Employment is an organized, 3-step process to help people 1) identify their job goal, 2) look for a job and 3) keep a job in a competitive setting.

Eligibility requirements for this service include:

- must live in the Region 6 area
- must be at least 19 years of age
- must have a mental health condition
- must have a desire to work

Supported Employment helps people with their resumes, interview skills, to advocate with employers and assists during job training when wanted by the consumer. The service also helps individuals to manage their symptoms while they're working.

To recruit employers, Community Alliance tries to make contact with Human Resources departments and asks to meet with employers to explain the program. Employer challenges can include breaking the stigma of hiring a person with mental health issues and understanding that Community Alliance works with people who have mental health issues, not those with intellectual disability issues.

There are 3 vocational rehab offices involved and there is also a partnership with Easter Seals who educates people in the program on benefits. This service helps dispel the myths about consumers losing their social security (explains how much people can work), housing, food stamps and they take into consideration the Medicaid guidelines too.

Community Alliance is also working on a 'Supported Education' program. This program is new and is currently only available for persons aged 15 – 24 years although the hope is that it expands to include more ages. Supported Education involves working with guidance counselors, teachers and advocating on behalf of consumers with schools.

## **6. Update on FY17 Budget/Provider Contracts – Taren Petersen**

The Division of Behavioral Health (DBH) approved Region 6's FY17 budget. The Network Provider contracts will go out soon.

## **7. Update on First Episode of Psychosis (FEP) – Melissa Schaefer, Manager of Youth Services**

See handouts/power point. Ms. Schaefer reviewed the power point items with the group. It was noted the First Episode of Psychosis (FEP) program assists in the treatment of thought disorders as opposed to mood disorders. Attendees are encouraged to work with

Ms. Schaefer and Heartland Family Service (HFS) if they know of anyone they think may be a good candidate for this program.

**8. Update on Plans for One – Lorie Thomas, Manager of Transition Services**

In 2012, an innovative approach began to care for people who have been at the Lincoln Regional Center (LRC) for 6 months or longer; Region 6 refers to these services as ‘Plans for One.’ Region 6 has 7 consumers who have been at LRC for 6+ months and 4 consumers have now moved into more independent living situations.

‘Plans for One’ works with both contracted and non-contracted providers. This innovative approach can be more expensive but the goal is to be creative and do what it takes to get a better long-term result for the consumer.

One example is the work being done with OMNI Behavioral Health, which offers an extended family care service – much like a foster care home for adults. This service worked with one particular consumer, nurturing her specific behavioral needs and as a result, the episodes of psychosis are decreasing and she has not had to return to an inpatient hospital. She has also been volunteering in the community. The goal is to move her into an independent living situation.

Some consumers are in a group home setting.

The cost avoidance of going into the hospital is an advantage to this program plus the fact that we certainly see a better quality of life for these individuals. The average age is 35 – 45 years and people who have had psychiatric services for most of their adult life and some even in their childhood. It is difficult to find good discharge services for people who have been in LRC for such an extended period of time.

**9. Update on the Psychiatric Emergency System (PES) – Taren Petersen**

Region 6 has contracted with CEP America, LLC., to help us move forward with a Psychiatric Emergency System (PES) for our area. A steering committee has been formed and the first meeting was in April; subgroups were formed to focus on funding, legal matters, consumer needs, law enforcement’s standard operating procedure review and quality improvement to determine outcomes. The next meeting will be in late July where we will be working on a business plan which we will share with the Board.

**10. Consumer Community Development Project – Jon Koley, Manager of Consumer Affairs**

Jon Koley stated that most consumers in our area do not know each other or interact with each other outside of treatment settings which can lead to self-isolation and negative stigma regarding mental health issues. This consumer community development project is an opportunity to get more communication and input from consumers in our area.

The long-term plan is not for Region 6 to have a driving role for an extended period of time but rather to have a group of consumers that functions independently from Region 6. Jon Koley is working on leadership development and getting people accustomed to

interacting with each other outside of treatment settings. Future topics will include items such as consumer rights, history of consumer advocacy and developing recreational activities. Activities/meetings will be held at various locations to help address the challenge of transportation faced by some people. It was noted that Omaha consumers could benefit by having a drop-in center similar to the Orchard House in Lincoln.

**11. Update on Partnership for Success Grant and Year 4 Continuation Plan – Crystal Fuller, Senior Manager of Prevention Services**

This SAMHSA grant is focused on preventing binge drinking in people aged 12 – 24 years in 11 counties in Nebraska; Douglas County is the county in Region 6 that was chosen. Violation of selling alcohol to minors has decreased from 9% in FY15 to 6% in FY16. Region 6 awarded and oversees funding of 3 coalitions in our area:

- LiveWise - focuses on Youth Empowerment
- Project Extra Mile (PEM) - works on policy, advocacy and law enforcement. PEM has promoted the 'It's just that simple' campaign, reminding people of the legal consequences for buying alcohol for people under the legal age.
- Omaha Collegiate Consortium (OCC) – is in 8 institutions of higher education in our area and focuses on the harm reduction model as opposed to abstinence. OCC has been informing people on the Good Samaritan law and the fact that they can call 911 and not be cited for a Minor in Possession (MIP).

There are also 8 more train-the-trainers. These are school related and involve Omaha South High School, Thrive clubs, MT Java and the Boys and Girls Club. Donald Rashid suggested Ms. Fuller have the coalitions reach out to the Sacred Heart-Heart Ministry program and the Buford Foundation.

A young adult alcohol opinion survey is going out on Monday to 10,000 people in Nebraska, ages 19 – 25.

Federal year 4 of this grant begins 10/1/2016 and Region 6 is looking at the sustainability of the work that has been done in Douglas County.

**12. Network System Coordination Update – Taren Petersen**

See handout. Ms. Petersen noted that Region 6 has a capacity of 30 beds at Lincoln Regional Center and we currently are occupying 31 beds.

BHAC members asked that these reports include any barriers that Managers may experience and to have the monthly reports sent out with the agenda prior to the BHAC meetings.

Ms. Petersen stated that BHAC members can contact her any time with questions or comments regarding the Network System Coordination Update. There were no questions at this time.

**13. Status Reports for the Period Ending May 31, 2016**

Handouts are in the packets for each of the items listed below:

**a. Contract Status Reports**

The total percentage of funding that should be pulled down at this point in FY16 is 91.7%.

**b. Mobile Crisis Response**

There were 55 total calls in May 2016 with a diversion rate of 95%. There were no questions or comments at this time.

**c. Emergency Protective Custody (EPC)**

The number of EPCs in May 2016 compared to May 2015 increased from 143 to 169. There were no questions or other comments at this time.

**d. Comparison of Acute and Subacute Occupancy Rates**

There were no questions or comments.

**14. Public Comment**

There were no public comments.

**15. Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned.

Prepared By: *Amy M Lett*

Date: *8/3/2016*

Approved By: *Dean Loftus*

Date: *8/3/2016*

