

**State Advisory Committee on Mental Health Services**  
**August 7, 2007 – 9 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.**  
**Country Inn & Suites – 5353 No. 27<sup>th</sup> St. Lincoln, NE**  
**MINUTES**

**Committee Members Present:**

Beth Baxter, Jimmy Burke, Cheryl Crouse, Bev Ferguson, Dwain Fowler, Joleine Hall, Chris Hanus, Clint Hawkins, Nancy Kratky, Susan Krome, Frank Lloyd, Colleen Manthei, Ron Sorensen, Pat Talbott, Mary Wells

**Committee Members Absent:**

Adria Bace, Pat Compton, Scot Ford, Kathy Lewis, Jerry McCallum, Maria Prendes-Lintel

**HHS Staff Present:**

Sue Adams, Alexandra Castillo, Jim Harvey, Joel McCleary, Phyllis McCaul, Lee Tyson

**Guests Present:**

Alan Green, J. Rock Johnson, Rachel Pinkerton, Tammy Fiala

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Bev Ferguson, Chairperson called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Roll call of members determined a quorum was met. **14 Members** of 21 appointed members were present at the beginning of the meeting. Each member introduced themselves and gave a brief statement about themselves.

**II. APPROVAL of May 1, 2007 MINUTES**

Correction to the minutes was requested. Under the Committee's recommendations the words "community support" needs to be added in front of peer training.

√ Motion was made by Cody Manthei and seconded by Jo Hall to approved the May 1, 2007 minutes with correction as requested. Voice vote was unanimous. Motion passed.

**III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

√ Motion was made by Pat Talbott and seconded by Jimmy Burke to have future meeting agendas be changed to list new business before the Division reports to allow for better discussion time of the MH Block Grant. Voice vote was in favor of the motion. Motion passed.

√ Motion was made by Pat Talbott and seconded by Mary Wells to approve the August 7, 2007 agenda as Submitted. Voice vote was in favor of the motion. Motion passed.

**IV. BH DIVISION REPORT**

**Mental Health Rural Voucher** -Marilyn Mechman from Interchurch Ministries of Nebraska.

She briefly explained the initial program started in the 1980's by the church, during the farm crisis of the 1980's. There were many suicides and families separating. Families, farmers, and ranchers wanted someone to talk to confidentially. The disaster hotline was developed and funded by the church but there was a need for mental health services & funding was needed. The Division of Behavioral Health funds the Interchurch Ministries of Nebraska to provide mental health counseling in rural Nebraska areas. Materials were disturbed to committee members. **Attachment A**

Q: How do people know how to access the hot line and the program?

A: People talking to other people, such as farmer to farmer or talking to a banker.

Q: Is there a waiting list?

A: They can re-apply every 6 months.

**RC Discharge Follow-up Program** – Shinobu Watanabe-Galloway

Shinobu reviewed her Power Point presentation with the committee members. Data is collected from many sources and are received once a month. A lot of time is spent reading/understanding the data and a lot of cleaning is done. The focus of the presentation was re-admissions. **Attachment B**

Comment:

- Sometimes it's hard for the elderly to get back into nursing homes, so discharge planning needs to be managed to avoid readmission.
- Community based programs should also be considered in the discharge status.
- Why is there missing data? It could be the difference in the database programs.
- Can the data be broken down within a time period? Yes that should be available very soon.
- Analysis will soon be done with data on physical disorders and mental disorders.
- Data systems need to be improved & funds are needed.

### **Response to Committee Recommendation**

Ron Sorensen gave a brief review of the written response to Committee recommendations that were mailed to committee members. List of recommendations and the responses are listed in **Attachment C**

Regions can work with Peer Specialist. The Region decides on how to use the funds.

## **V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **Medical Assistance Advisory Committee Report**

Mary Wells did attend the Medical Assistance Advisory Committee (MAAC) meeting. She briefly reported that she found it very interesting but since this was her first meeting she was not well informed on some of the reports that were presented. She was please to meet and speak with George Kahlandt who is very involved in consumer advocacy.

### **Children's MH/SA State Infrastructure Grant Report**

**Attachment D**

Beth Baxter briefly reviewed and distributed the goals of the State Infrastructure Grant Steering Committee. There a several workgroups/subcommittees that are based around the goals. The main goals are 1. Expand Evidence-based practices, 2. Ensure Cultural Competence and Family-Centered Approaches at all Levels, 3. Integrate across Child and Family Serving Agencies.

The SIG process is a 5 year federal grant on how to develop an infrastructure, so Beth will continue to report back the progress and activities.

## **VI. NEW BUSINESS**

### **Scot Adams – Director of Behavioral Health Services**

Introduced himself and briefly told the committee of his family and work background. He was previously employed with Catholic Charities in Omaha and has extensive experience in the mental health and substance abuse field. Scot stated his expectation is on Nebraska becoming one of the top five states in behavioral health. The first priority of the Governor is to complete the statewide Behavioral Health Reform and the second priority goal of the Governor is to integrate children's behavioral health services within the Division of Behavioral Health. Power Point presentation was briefly reviewed and distributed to the committee members. **Attachment E**

Comments:

The number one problem to improving employment for consumers is to work with Medicaid to raise the income amount so more mentally ill people can make more money, better themselves and not lose medical benefits.

## **Mental Health Block Grant Review – Jim Harvey**

Draft copy of the Block Grant was mailed to committee members. Members were offered the opportunity to access the draft Community Mental Health Services Block Grant application as it was being prepared via the WEBBGAS portal Website. Information on how to access the web site at <https://bgas.samhsa.gov/cmhs2008/> using the following for Username (NE\_Council Member) and Password (Lincoln%496) was sent (via mail and e-mail) to all the committee members on June 7, 2007.

Committee members reported their efforts to use the WEBBGAS portal Website. Some reported success, while others encountered problems.

Jim Harvey pointed out that one of the duties of the committee is to review the MH Block Grant and he reviewed the MH Block Grant section by section pointing out new/revised items and collected comments from the committee members. **ATTACHMENT F**

- Cheryl Crouse was concerned about how Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training is not offered to Law Enforcement until the last part of their training and not much of that training is being absorbed. CIT is very important. A small committee of individuals is getting trained in CIT at the Police Academy in Grand Island Nebraska. Mental Health professionals from the area will be involved. The small committee's plan is offer their 5 day training statewide. Crisis Response Team – there are some MH professional involvement and community support component on the team, but there not a specific component in that program to include a MH Consumer. There is a trend for some states to use MH consumers to provide emergency service. Steve Miccio is a leader on CRTs, he has done a lot of work in using peers, peer support, and emergency systems and it is working well.
- Cheryl Crouse was concerned about where does the quality control come in? She said one could write a book about bad programs in Nebraska.
- There was discussion in reaction to Scot Adam's expectation on Nebraska becoming one of the top five states in behavioral health. Which are the top five states? How are the top states measured? Nebraska should be looking at what the top states are doing and how they are doing it. Some Committee members suggested the Division of Behavioral Health use the NAMI criteria to look at how to measure if Nebraska is moving into the top five. Others suggested using NOMS from SAMHSA.
- There was a question on Nebraska's Behavioral Health Disaster Plan.
- How can Region 3 show \$30,000 in Peer support? Cheryl Crouse reported when she worked as a peer support in Region 3 and her salary was \$9 per hour.
- Pat Talbott – staff did a very good job in marking the points as new, revised and items that stayed the same. It was tremendously helpful in understanding and following the review of the block grant.
- Beth Baxter reported that under Gap #3: Shortage of Staff, under the table showing Nebraska Behavioral Healthcare Professionals by Region and by Discipline, it shows Region 3 with zero Physician Assistants. Beth knows there is one working in Region 3.
- Jimmy Burke said, regarding the material under Plans to Address Unmet Needs, Adult Goal 1: Statewide Planning, the Peer Support Services Study Group was really good. Services are insufficient. It is very important to identify strengths and champions within the current system. Increasing meaningful inclusion is important. Peer Support is more than volunteerism. The "peer provider" becomes a "professional" with or without a degree.
- Children's Plan – no comments were made

## **VII. SETTING 2008 MEETING DATES**

√ Motion made by Jimmy Burke and seconded by Pat Talbott to set the review meeting of the FY09 block grant the second Tuesday of August 2008 and the meeting be designated for the sole purpose of reviewing and discussing the FY09 Mental Health Block grant. Roll call was vote taken and resulted unanimously in favor of the motion.

√ Motion made by Nancy and seconded by Cody to have the meeting on the second Wednesday of February, May, August and November. Roll call vote was taken, motion did not pass.

√ Motion was made by Jimmy Burke and seconded by Pat Talbott to continue with the meeting schedule used in the past with the exception of the August meeting to be set for August 12, 2008. Voice vote was in favor of the motion. Motion passed.

The State Advisory Committee on Mental Health Services meeting dates for 2008 are:

- Tuesday, February 5, 2008
- Tuesday, May 6, 2008
- Tuesday, August 12, 2008
- Tuesday, November 4, 2008

## **VII. Public Comment**

### **Tammy Fiala**

- They attended training and tours of emergency community services and gambling services.
- They met with the Behavioral Health Advisory committees in each region.
- Region 3 hosted a 5 day WRAP Training Class that included all the regions.
- Region 5 will host a workshop called "Helping Wounded Healers"
- Consumer Conference in Aurora Nebraska will be held on September 18-20, 2007.

### **Alan Green**

- The Nebraska Mental Health Association funding from the Division of Behavioral Health ended with the FY2005 contract.
- Funds from the Division of Behavioral Health are now used for the provision of WRAP training and consumer recovery.
- Cultural Competency is very important. Mental Illness is a unique with a cultural bias toward people with mental illness by people in the community.
- Employment – many consumers with mental illness can be employed. This shows the bias toward people with mental illness and employer mis-concepts.
- In the section on the Division of Behavioral Health's vision of the future, recovery was not identified as a core principle.
- In Scot Adams' letter to the Committee on Peer Specialist training, it is not a funding issue. It is more about priorities being set.
- It is important to find proactive services, not reactive services like Emergency Protective Custody (EPC).

### **J. Rock Johnson.**

- Noting "new" "updated" or "same" in the draft application was good.
- The Division agreeing to having the draft application mailed to Committee members 10 working days in advance of the Block Grant review meeting in 2008 is good.
- Public access to the WEBBGAS portal Website was good.
- How do you let people know about access to the draft document in advance?
- Having a standing agenda item for the Office of Consumer Affairs is a good idea.

### **Joel McCleary**

- Gave a special thanks to Region 3 for hosting the WRAP Program.

## **VIII. Mental Health Advisory Committee Recommendations to BH Division**

1. Asked the Division to reconsider an ad hoc subcommittee for elderly issues even if members would be on volunteer basics.

2. Requested the Division to develop a plan or method to have the providers be accountable for data collecting.
3. To have the Division check on how to reduce the Medicare drug cost.

**IX. Other Agenda Items**

- Report on the Aurora Consumer conference
- Todd Laundry – Children Services
- Develop a peer provider recovery ad hoc committee
- Region 4 – Regional Report
- Military Report

**Plus**

- ◆ Good job of keeping things moving
- ◆ Chair did a good job
- ◆ The marked changes in the Block Grant was Very helpful

**Delta**

- ◆ MH Block Grant was not mailed in enough time to review the grant.
- ◆ Some members had a difficult time access the Block Grant via the internet

**X. Next Meeting & Adjournment**

The next meeting date is Tuesday, November 6, 2007 at Country Inn and Suites.

- √ Motion was made by Jo Hall and seconded by Pat Talbott to adjourn the meeting  
Vote was unanimous in favor of adjourning the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 4:35 pm.

Prepared by: Alexandra Castillo, Staff Assistant

Approved by Jim Harvey Date 10/18/07  
Quality Improvement Coordinator  
Division of Behavioral Health Services