

Mental Health Connection Membership Meeting Minutes
Monday, April 12, 2010 at 8:30am
The Women's Center

Attendees:

Sue Adams	Phillip Hawkins	Chris Riddick
Sean Allen	Ginny Hickman	Matt Robison
Joan Barcellona	Virginia Hoft	Wendy Ross
Kay Barkin	Shelby Hopson	Jane Sanford
Sarah Bentz	Todd Landry	Jamie Souders
Joe Burkett	Susan Love	Michael Steinert
Deborah Caddy	Susanne Luebke	Michael Taylor
Pat Cheong	Sandra Lydick	Cynthia Thompson
Margaret Cohenour	Jim McDermott	James Turnage
Kristen Conner	Tim McKinney	Tamra Walker
Shawn Curtis	Michelle Morgan	Mark J. Ware
Dale Edmiaston	Santos Navarrette	Vicki Warren
Lisa Farmer	Stephanie Norton	Grace White
Vidalina Flores	Melissa Opheim	Artie Williams
Sonja Gaines	Michael Parker	Lyn Willis
Susan Garnett	Patty Poma	Wayne Young
Jennifer Gilley	Sherri Pratt	Lena Zettler
John Hamlett, III	Carolyn Presnall	

Wayne Young called the meeting to order at 8:40 a.m. Carolyn Presnall, co-chair of the Membership Committee, led the group in introductions.

Presentations

Advocacy Committee

Dr. McDermott explained the role of the Advocacy Committee is to identify issues and address them at the local, state and federal levels. Three surveys went out recently to gauge member interest on issues to be addressed. The first was conducted on Survey Monkey, and results showed the top five issues of concern are:

- Access to a full continuum of mental health and substance abuse services (72%)
- Maintenance of local, state and federal funding (70%)
- No cuts in Medicaid funding (26%)
- Ensure local decision-making is protected (23%)
- Relief from excessive regulatory requirements and unfunded mandates (21%)

The Advocacy Committee will visit with the local state legislative delegation, going to every member to update them on Mental Health Connection and discuss the issues. This activity has been very successful in the past. Dr. McDermott asked that anyone willing to participate sign up today. The visits will occur in the summer or early fall.

The second survey looked at the new focus of United Way and the way it would affect Mental Health Connection members. The third was an unfunded mandates survey to determine state requirements that are unnecessarily burdensome. The Advocacy Committee will review all of the results and report on them at the May meeting.

Bills of interest in the upcoming legislative session include one designed to make it easier to give medications to people in prison who have been judged incompetent to stand trial. Another is Kendra's Law, which makes it easier to order and enforce outpatient commitments. Lee LeGrice, Mike Steinert, Brent Carr and Judge Morrisette are looking at both issues.

Utilization Review

JPS – Wayne Young reported there were 1,404 patients seen in the Psychiatric Emergency Room in March. There were 282 adult and 70 adolescent admissions. Fifty were served in the Crisis Stabilization Unit.

Cook Children's Medical Center - Carolyn Presnall reported there has been a 66% increase in Psychiatric ER visits. Today, eight inpatient beds are occupied with the rest blocked. There are 11 in the PHP and 41 on the waiting list for PHP.

CCHAPS – Lena Zettler reported she and Jennifer Johnson chair the Autism Committee, which used CCHAPS to determine its next steps. According to the report, 1% of the children in six counties have a formal diagnosis on the Autism spectrum. When the diagnosis is broadened to include all developmental delays, the number grows to 5%. Autism appears to be more common in males, and is not clustered in any one socioeconomic stratum. However, it does seem to be more prevalent in families where the parents have a college education or higher.

DataLink – Tamra Walker reported 125 referrals went through DataLink in March, a 25% increase over February. The number of referrals in all of 2009 has already been surpassed this year. Michael Williams has been hired by IIT and will be housed in the Hand in Hand offices. SEG is continuing to work with Millwood and has sent a request to the corporate office for approval to subscribe to DataLink. Tarrant County Juvenile Services and The Art Station are coming on Board. The Art Station will be using DataLink for billing and records. The top need for the year so far is for family counseling. DataLink now has an agency profile section. Agencies can add more information about themselves for referrals.

United Way Update

Pat Cheong reviewed the United Way Community Assessment conducted in spring 2009 in collaboration with Cook Children's Medical Center. The full reports are on www.unitedwaytarrant.org. United Way partnered with Dr. Jim Burdine of Texas A&M University to conduct the research. She also recognized funders of the study.

Tim McKinney, United Way CEO, discussed the organization's strategic plan. To enhance spending on discretionary programs, United Way will reduce agency funding to a maximum of \$500,000 a year per agency based on programming needs. In the past 11% of United Way's discretionary funds have gone towards its impact issues. That amount is increasing to 60% as of this year. Impact issues will include:

- *Education*
Focusing on the continuum of education from first through eighth grades.
- *Income*
Focusing on financial stability. The first area of emphasis will be the Earned Income Credit. In 2007, more than \$100 million in EIC credits went unclaimed in Tarrant County. The three-year goal is to help more than 5,000 families collect at least \$3 million. A second area of focus is financial stability, which includes English as a Second Language education. United Way's goal calls for 2,000 families to have savings accounts of at least \$500 within the next three years.
- *Health*
Focusing on keeping seniors in their homes longer. Research has shown Tarrant County can save \$50 million over the next three years by keeping people out of hospitals.

Independent contractors will be hired to evaluate the effectiveness of all the programs, which are still being developed. \$50,000 will be spent each year on evaluation. United Way has found that corporate donors are becoming focused on single issues, so the changes should not negatively affect donations. Programs such as 2-1-1 and the Area Agency on Aging will not be cut. Approximately 75% of 2-1-1's funding comes from the state, and AAA is entirely funded by the federal government.

Announcements

Lena Zettler introduced Joanne Haynes and Robin Burgess, who are new to Cook Children's Community Affairs Department.

Carolyn Presnall announced the May meeting will feature Sonja Gaines reporting on MHMR's crisis services.

Virginia Hoft announced there will be a CBMCS cultural competence training on April 20-23, and some spots are still available.

Pat Cheong announced United Way's Public Policy Committee will be meeting to hear from coalitions.

Journal Clubs are beginning to meet. The group studying adolescent evidence-based practices will meet on April 14 at Lena Pope Home on Hulen. The Early Childhood group will meet April 22, and the Adult Mental Health group will meet on April 27. Anyone who is interested but has not yet signed up should send an email to Susanne Luebke as soon as possible to let her know.

Kay Barkin announced May 6 is Children's Mental Health Awareness Day. Work is underway to display children's art to celebrate the event.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held Monday, May 10, 8:30 a.m., at The Women's Center.

Adjournment

With no announcements or further business, Wayne adjourned the meeting at 9:50 a.m.