

**Mental Health Connection Membership Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, April 11, 2011 at 8:30am**  
**The Women's Center**

**Attendees:**

Sue Adams	Jan Finch	Diane McCollum
Sean Allen	Sonja Gaines	Marisol Mogus
Lovie Anderson	Lydia Garcia	Carol Nati, M.D.
Stefan Ateek	Allison Giles	Santos Navarrette, Jr.
Gwen Bain	Estrella Griggs	Elewechi Ndukwe
Joan Barcellona	Carolyn Hanke	Stephanie Norton
Kay Barkin	Nate Hearne	Sherri Pratt
Maury Booth	Chuck Hoffman	Carolyn Presnall
Pat Cheong	Virginia Hoft	Barbara Reynolds
Gretel Chuquipul	Cynthia Jensen	Walter Taylor
Travis Davis	Brittany Johnson	Cynthia Thompson
Dale Edmiaston	Tracy Koller	Vicki Warren
Lisa Farmer	Barbara Lamsens	Grace White
Jennifer Farnum	Lee LeGrice	Wayne Young
Debbie Fillmore	Susanne Luebke	

Susan Garnett called the meeting to order and welcomed attendees at 8:40 a.m. Carolyn Presnall led the group in introductions.

**Special Reports**

*Your Texas Benefits and Amerigroup*

Sonja Gaines introduced Walter Taylor, program director, and Elewechi Ndukwe, program manager of Your Texas Benefits. Your Texas Benefits works with the Tarrant County CHIP Coalition and other partners to identify, educate, screen and enroll eligible but unenrolled Tarrant County residents in all Health and Human Services benefits. These benefits include Medicaid, Food Stamps and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). Your Texas Benefits also provides in-depth program presentations and support to partner agencies, collaboration on various community outreach events, enhanced application processing times, and case tracking services. Walter also provided background on the CHIP Coalition, which has held more than 200 enrollment events over the past 2½ years, enrolling between 2,700 and 3,000 children. Walter served as the Coalition chair, but had to step down when he started a new position. Dr. Robert Rogers, the only pediatric allergist in Tarrant County who takes Medicaid, stepped in as chair. Walter urged everyone to join the Coalition, or at least reach out to legislators about the importance of CHIP. He also explained that Catholic Charities runs Your Enrollment for those living outside Tarrant County.

Maury Booth, Marisol Mogus and Ellen Duke presented information on Amerigroup, which provides Medicaid, CHIP and STAR+PLUS in 13 counties. The new STAR+PLUS started Feb. 1. Bravo Health is now accepting Medicaid clients as well.

Medicaid recipients can choose between the two. Maury pointed out the packets available at each place today, and explained Amerigroup will speak to any group. The packet included a comparison chart that shows the difference between Medicaid and STAR+PLUS. STAR+PLUS also offers care coordinators who have relationships with individuals. The Amerigroup Web site has a provider list that is updated monthly. Clients can also call their care coordinators directly if they cannot get an appointment. Amerigroup tries to make an appointment within seven to 14 days. To provide Medicaid services, providers now have to contract with Amerigroup or Bravo Health. Susan Garnett said there is a move to do away with traditional fee-for-service, which is no longer an option for most adults in urban areas. She also explained that the managed care activities are under the supervision of HHSC, which puts out bids for the services. In all cases, the managed care providers must demonstrate that they have a network of providers. The credentialing process for new providers should take about 90 days. Medication coverage is still under Vendor Drug and has not changed. Currently, clients over 21 have unlimited prescriptions instead of only three as before. It is possible to change managed care providers each month. However, it takes 60 to 90 days for a change to take effect. The Web site [www.hhsc.state.tx.us](http://www.hhsc.state.tx.us) provides good resources on managed care. She suggested that providers should keep abreast of the Web site.

### **Utilization Review**

*JPS Health System* – Wayne Young reported there were 1,460 visits to the Psychiatric Emergency Room in March. There were 97 admissions to the adolescent unit, 74 to crisis stabilization and 290 to the adult unit. Adolescent admissions set a new record for the hospital, in part because the state hospitals have waiting lists. He is looking forward to the opening of the adolescent beds at Sundance.

*Cook Children's Medical Center* – Carolyn Presnall reported there are currently eight inpatient beds occupied, with two blocked. There are 15 clients in the Partial Hospitalization Program. The past month marked the highest level of patients seen in the Emergency Room. In the future, Carolyn will report on the monthly number of admissions instead of daily. Patsy suggested future reports on such trends as diagnoses and ages to identify dialog needed on emerging issues.

*Hand in Hand* – Stephanie Norton reported Hand in Hand continues to seek referrals of children who are involved in the CPS system for the national Sector Comparison Study. Hand in Hand has committed to enrolling at least 50 children by August 2012. Currently, seven children have been enrolled in the study. To qualify, children must be between 2 and 5 and reside in the Hand in Hand service area. There is currently one opening in Hood County and two in Palo Pinto County. There have been 59 children served by Hand in Hand.

*DataLink* – In March, there were 283 referrals, making it the busiest month ever for DataLink. There have been 2,150 referrals made in the last year.

*Tarrant Cares* – Estrella Griggs reported using the Tarrant Cares social networking site to create groups. She is currently setting up a group for executives who are working on Cultural and Linguistic Competence. Patsy reported the turnaround time for changes to

Tarrant Cares should be about a week. To date, Trilogy has received more than 300 change requests from the 2,000 agencies on the site. If anyone sees changes that do not look right, contact Patsy.

*Crisis Services* – Sonja Gaines reported two new people at MHMR: Dr. Carol Nati, Medical Director; and Tracy Koller, Director of Child and Adolescent Services. James Turnage is now working with special projects. On May 1, Crisis Services will have two staff members in Bedford to identify mental health issues and get callers into the system. In February, there were 20 crisis calls, one of which concerned an adolescent. Eleven individuals went to the Crisis Stabilization Unit at JPS. Sonja said there has been very positive feedback on the CSU, making it a great addition to the services array. MHMR has direct admission privileges there. She thanked JPS for the tremendous job it is doing. The Outpatient Competency Restoration program is also going very well, saving millions of dollars that would have been spent on state hospital utilization. There have been requests to expand MCOT.

## **Announcements**

Lydia Garcia reported the next CBMCS training will be held in May. There are flyers and registration forms on the table.

Lydia also discussed “Many Cultures, One Focus,” a cultural competence booklet produced by THR. Joan Barcellona contacted the department that developed the booklet and was able to obtain several copies. There is information about cultures, ethnicities, and how to use interpreters. The Cultural Competence team is looking at the possibility of creating a similar booklet geared specifically to mental health. Karen Matos at THR is willing to work on it with us.

Lee LeGrice reported the next Suicide Prevention Coalition meeting will be on Friday, April 15, at 9:30 a.m. at Mental Health Association. She said Mental Health Association is also planning a 5K Run for Life in September.

Virginia Hoft reported that Tarrant County Challenge is hosting a program on psychotropic medications on May 17 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. More information is available on Tarrant County Challenge’s Web site.

Virginia also reported that Santa Fe Youth Services is holding its Annual Believing in Youth Dinner. Joel Burns will receive the Mike Moncrief Award, and Luther Berry and Valerie Baskin will be recognized for their work.

Carolyn Presnall reported the next meeting will be held at Catholic Charities instead of The Women’s Center. The program will include reports on the refugee population and on translation/interpretation services.

Kay Barkin said Children’s Mental Health Awareness Day will be May 3, and urged agencies to put something about it on their Web sites.

## **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held Monday, April 11, at 8:30 a.m. at Catholic Charities, 249 W. Thornhill, off Seminary South and I-35.

**Adjournment**

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:55 a.m.