

Mental Health Connection Membership Meeting Minutes
Monday, June 14, 2010 at 8:30am
The Women's Center

Attendees:

Gwen Bain	Lisa Farmer	Jon O'Shaughnessy
Joan Barcellona	Sonja Gaines	Michael Parker
Kay Barkin	Susan Garnett	Sherri Pratt
Faye Beaulieu	Jennifer Gilley	Barbara Reynolds-
Andre Bennett	Carrie Greer	Brown
Cindy Bethany	Ginny Hickman	Matt Robison
Ernest Brownlee	Barbara Lamsens	Jan Sanford
Joe Burkett	Susanne Luebke	Susan Sodek
Melinda Cantu	Kelly Mays	Jamie Souders
Estela Cardenas	Patricia McGrew	Cynthia Thompson
Pat Cheong	Clea Moss	Tyron Thompson
Michelle Cowden	Santos Navarrette	James Turnage
Michelle Denison	Stephanie Norton	Lyn Willis
Dale Edmiaston	Melissa Opheim	Lena Zettler

Susan Garnett called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m. She led the group in introductions.

Special Reports

Advocacy

Susan reported that representatives of Mental Health Connection traveled to Washington, D.C., in May to meet with key legislative and agency individuals. They met with Representative Kay Granger's and Representative Michael Burgess' offices. It was clear they already knew about Mental Health Connection and the work of mental health care providers in Tarrant County. The group also met with Representative Joe Barton for 45 minutes, which was a unique opportunity since he has committee memberships that are important to mental health. Meetings were also held with SAMSHA and the Justice, Education and Veteran's Administration Departments. Another meeting was held with Senator John Cornyn.

Lyn Willis reported the group met with staff from the Bureau of Justice Assistance for an hour, talking about grant funding for re-entry initiatives, veterans and substance abuse.

Jennifer Gilley reported on the meeting with Chris Carroll at SAMHSA. Mental Health Connection hoped to learn more about the Administration's initiative toward fuller integration of mental health and physical health through primary care and federally qualified health care centers. The group also learned more about broad-based prevention strategies focusing on poverty and education. RFPs in these areas will be issued soon. Chris also told the group that he knows he will see Mental Health Connection in his office every two years with positive reports on progress in the community. He said MHC is one of only two organizations that come to see him.

Susan reported that the Education Department's funding streams are shrinking. As a result, future applications for funds need to be collaborative. She said there is also a desire to see collaborative approaches towards homelessness and health care for returning veterans. Funds will be out this fall seeking support services for veterans and their families. There may be as much as \$1 million coming into communities across the country. All members of Mental Health Connection should let Michael Steinert, Patsy Thomas or Mahie Ghoraishi know if they would like to be members of the Grants Committee.

Virginia Hoft reported on the meeting she and Patsy had with Georgetown University on Cultural Competency. The experts said the work being done by Mental Health Connection is trailblazing. The community needs to define what we want to look like in the area of cultural competence, and then determine and address where groups of agencies and individuals are in the process. The Georgetown experts recommended being flexible but steadfast in our commitment. The Cultural Competency Committee – ACCESS – is creating a steering committee to develop the cultural competency vision for our community. The Georgetown group said it had not heard of many communities that have the buy-in of executives at the level that Tarrant County has.

Wayne Carson reported on the meeting with the Interagency Office on Homelessness Coordination. They discussed veterans programs and programs for runaways.

Millwood Hospital

Jane Phillips, director of Adult Outpatient Services at Millwood Hospital, explained that Millwood offers a wide variety of services to clients beginning at age 4. There is no upper age limit – the hospital has seen patients in their 90s. Millwood offers intensive psychiatric care, inpatient care, partial hospitalization and intensive outpatient programs. Jane provided criteria for admission and services provided by each level of care. Millwood has 20 adult beds for involuntary admissions, 30 to 40 general admission beds for adults, 20 to 25 beds for children and 20 to 25 beds for adolescents. The Excel Center in Arlington is for adults, with the Excel Center in Fort Worth for children and adolescents. There is also an Excel Center in Lewisville. Millwood provides assessments 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It also conducts mobile assessments in doctors' offices, and opened an Access Center in Weatherford in 2007 to connect people to services. An Access Center just opened in May in Burleson.

Ernest Brownlee, M.D., medical director at Millwood, took over as director of research and principle investigator about a year ago. His department is seeking new patient referrals for a study on long-acting injection medications. Other studies may be coming. To date, all of the studies have been funded by pharmaceutical companies. The studies usually include about 10 patients at a time, but more can be added if the study is going well. Dr. Brownlee pointed out that Millwood has 350 admissions every month, and some patients are ready to try something new. These are the patients who ask to be included in the research program. Some of the studies are short-term. One underway now is 52 weeks, but there is the possibility of a five-year extension. Sponsors of these studies do publish their results, but if the study fails, the drug does not come to market. The current

studies are not statistically set up for comparatives with control groups; however, Millwood is actively seeking participation in comparative studies.

Jon O'Shaughnessy, who became Millwood's CEO in March, explained that Millwood's focus is on quality care and service enhancements. In April, the hospital was forced to turn away more than 60 admissions because it could not afford a safe and healthy environment for patients. That event triggered a review of processes, and Millwood adopted a new model that is team centered instead of nursing centered. Peggy Huey is starting today to lead the new initiative. The facility no longer revolves around nursing as a single discipline, but around team management. New therapists are coming on board to intensify the level of substance abuse services. Referral source communication is also very important. The hospital will notify referral sources after 72 hours to provide an update. The average length of stay at Millwood is seven days. Millwood works with managed care, Medicare, Medicaid and commercial insurance. Currently, 4 percent of its patients receive charity care. Jon said the new health care legislation should result in broadened access to services, although the concern is whether the hospital will be capable of handling increases in demand. He said physician recruitment is the key. In the area of cultural diversity, Social Services staff members are able to communicate with patients and their families in a number of languages.

Jon reported Universal Health System is in the process of acquiring Psysolutions, which owns Millwood. The buyout includes Hickory Trail, Glen Oaks and Timberlawn hospitals locally. The larger entity will be able to negotiate more effectively with managed care. The offer was \$3.1 billion.

Utilization Review

Cook Children's Medical Center - Carolyn Presnall reported there are currently 11 children in the Partial Hospitalization Program, six on the inpatient unit and two blocked beds.

Hand in Hand – Stephanie Norton reported Hand in Hand has 32 clients and is still taking referrals everywhere except Tarrant County. The first Respite Advocacy Committee meeting will be held Monday, June 21, at 1:30 p.m. at Pecan Valley MHMR in Weatherford.

CCHAPS – Ginny Hickman reported CCHAPS is in the process of conducting summits in each county and is planning regional summits. She said CCHAPS met with Hand in hand staff to determine ways to partner.

Crisis Services – The Mobile Crisis Outreach Team (MCOT) made 26 calls in May, bringing the total year-to-date to 237. Residential Crisis Services had 10 clients in May, with a year-to-date total of 81. Respite Services had 12 clients in May, serving 189 year-to-date. The ICare Call Center received 6,300 calls in May, bringing the total year-to-date calls to 53,814. Crisis Services are currently working with Med Star in a partnership designed to reduce visits to the emergency room.

Announcements

Susanne Luebke reported the Internalizing/Externalizing Implementation Team is currently working with Mental Health Connection to bring Peter Jensen back to town. The REACH Institute conducts excellent training on internalizing/externalizing evidence-based models. The five-day intensive program includes presentations by the EBP developers. There will also be a train-the-trainer component. The Implementation Team is proposing that the five days be broken into two sessions. A possible training could be held September 20-21 and the week of October 4. Susanne asked individuals to check with their agencies for any major conflicts with the dates. Joe Burkett pointed out the first week in October is Mental Illness Awareness Week, which could provide a synergistic overlap.

Virginia Hoft reported that two additional California Basic Multicultural Scale (CBMCS) trainings have been planned. One will be held August 12, 13, 26 and 27. The second will be October 14, 15, 21 and 22. The training team will complete its commitment to Mental Health Connection once it provides the October training. Virginia said the Implementation Team will be looking at other types of training to ensure the needs of all agencies are met.

Pat Cheong said United Way and a couple of other groups met in the spring to create a “meetup.com” online group for nonprofit organizations. The goal is to provide training needed to run a successful nonprofit organization. The Web site is <http://www.meetup.com/Tarrant-Coalition-for-Nonprofit-Professional-Development/>.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held Monday, July 12, 8:30 a.m., at The Women’s Center. Presentations will include updates on MHMR Addiction Services by Stevie Hansen, the Autism Implementation Team by Lena Zettler, and Stay on TRAC by Greg Sumpter.

Adjournment

With no further business, Susan adjourned the meeting at 9:45 a.m.