

Mental Health Connection Membership Meeting Minutes
Monday, October 10, 2011, 8:30 a.m.
The Women's Center

Attendees:

Gwen Bain	Sonja Gaines	Sandra Lydick
Joan Barcellona	Susan Garnett	Shellie McMillen
Kay Barkin	Estrella Griggs	Carol Nati, M.D.
Melinda Cantu	Tabatha Gunn	Stephanie Norton
Brent Carr	Nancy Hagan	Sherri Pratt
Mark Chamberlin	Carolyn Hanke	Jane Sanford
Diana Davis	Mark Heilman	Patricia Sylve
Travis Davis	Virginia Hoft	Patsy Thomas
Dale Edmiaston	Cynthia Jensen	Stacy Thomas
Lisa Farmer	Brittany Johnson	Otis Thornton
Jennifer Farnum	Jared Jones	Richard Vickers
Lisa Ferrell	Debbie Krause	Mark Ware
Jan Finch	Barbara Lamsens	Lyn Willis
Linda Freeto	Lee LeGrice	Brenda Wingo
Wayne Young		

Susan Garnett called the meeting to order at 8:45 a.m. and welcomed attendees. She reminded everyone to park on the south side of the Women's Center building since clients need the north side on Monday mornings.

Sherri Pratt led the group in introductions.

Special Reports

Texas Health Resources Diversity and Inclusion Program

Mena Kenny reported on Texas Health Resources' efforts to make every patient feel welcome and comfortable. The goal is to become an integrated system of healthcare, serving all patients with cultural competence and equity. Texas Health Resources sees cultural competence as a developmental process that evolves over an extended period. Both individuals and organizations are at various levels of awareness, knowledge and skills along the cultural competence continuum. The Texas Health Resources Diversity and Inclusion Department integrates the work of clinical and business units in focusing on five key dimensions: language, race/ethnicity, religion, age and disability. Employees have an opportunity to participate in a number of educational programs, including an accent modification program that helps providers communicate better with all patients. Diversity and Inclusion programs also include relatively simple activities, such as development of a calendar that highlights food, culture and religious celebrations. Even smaller efforts can have a big impact as Texas Health Resources works to build on internal evidence-based processes. Each Texas Health Resources hospital has a Diversity Action Team to help gauge the needs at each hospital. Representatives of each team come together in a Diversity Network to address system-wide issues. Joan Barcellona

commended the work Texas Health Resources has done in the area of cultural competence.

ACH In-Home Respite Services

Mark Heilman presented information on the ACH Child and Family Services In-Home Respite Program, which is funded by Hand in Hand and its partners: The Parenting Center, Catholic Charities, Lena Pope Home and MHMR. The service area runs from Azle to Weatherford to Burleson, and can expand as respite care providers are added. Mark explained that In-Home Respite Services provides temporary, planned relief for parents of special needs children, individualized strengths-based goal planning for children, and collaborative development of long-term support systems for families. The key goals are relief for the caregivers and family preservation. ACH conducts a 1.5- to 2-hour medical and mental assessment on the identified child in each family. Providers help the family develop goals based on the child's and family's strengths. Cultural competence is an important aspect of the services, and ACH tries to match providers to a family's cultural requests. Activities during respite care depend on what the children like to do and can range from visits to the park to working on puzzles at home. In some cases, the providers help with social enhancements, such as teaching teens to fill out job applications. Caregivers may spend their free time with friends or take a much-needed nap. Respite providers typically work with a family for three to six months, and help them to find longer-term solutions. By the time ACH respite providers complete their work with a family, many caregivers are able to see that they have been successful in many areas instead of focusing solely on what has been wrong. Mark explained most respite providers work full-time at ACH, but they have asked to do this work as a way to give back to the community. The providers are highly capable, energized and trained. A parent who uses the respite services was scheduled to speak at today's meeting; however, a child's meltdown over the weekend kept her away. Instead, Mark read her moving description of what respite services have meant to her. Mark left his business cards and offered to visit agencies to explain the ACH In-Home Respite Program and to help them think about ways to incorporate it into their service plans.

Planning for the Future

Virginia Hoft asked everyone to answer the question on the back of the agenda: *In your opinion, what issue(s) inhibit Mental Health Connection from achieving "No Wrong Door to the Right Mental Health Resources?"* She asked them to turn in their answer as they leave today's meeting or send it to Patsy Thomas within the next couple of days. The responses will help in preparations for the presentation and table discussions at the Bridging the Gap Symposium.

Utilization Review

Tarrant Cares - Kay Barkin reported there have been 1,629,204 hits, 857,362 pageviews and 142,548 sessions since Tarrant Cares launched on March 30. The busiest sites in August were Prenatal-5 and Children and Families. All sites have seen major increases since the first month. The Mental Health Connection site had 2,337 sessions in the month after Tarrant Cares launched. In September, it had 10,979 sessions. The Corrections site has gone from 707 sessions in April to 13,281 in September.

DataLink – Dale Edmiaston reported there are currently 15 agencies using DataLink. There were 216 referrals in September. There have been 2,290 referrals through DataLink in the past 12 months.

JPS Health – Wayne Young reported there were 301 adult psychiatric admissions, 69 adolescent admissions and 68 admissions to the Crisis Stabilization Unit in September. The Psychiatric Emergency Center saw 1,285 patients. Approximately six weeks ago, all patients arriving with EMS teams started going to the medical Emergency Department before going to the Psychiatric Emergency Center. In many cases, patients with medical needs were coming to Psychiatric Services, which could not provide all the care they needed. The change does not affect law enforcement – just EMS teams.

Cook Children's Medical Center – Lisa Farmer reported the Emergency Department saw 137 psychiatric patients in September. Currently, there are eight children on the in-patient unit and 12 in the Partial Hospitalization Program.

Hand in Hand – Stephanie Norton reminded attendees that we are half-way through the Hand in Hand grant, having just started Year 4 of the six-year program. To date, 76 clients have been served, and 13 are in the CPS Sector Study. Lena Pope Home is now serving two counties – Parker and Johnson. Amy Millender is the new facilitator for Johnson County. Pecan Valley Center (previously called Pecan Valley MHMR) is now providing services for Hood County and is currently in the process of hiring a facilitator. Evaluation of Year 3 will be published soon, and initial reports show that wraparound is working well for families. Next week, Hand in Hand will conduct pilot wraparound training for MHMR of Tarrant County and Pecan Valley Center. It was learned last month that the State of Texas is moving forward with statewide wraparound, and some counties will be able to bill Medicaid for services. Planners are looking at the possibility of using Hand in Hand's curriculum for training throughout the state. Hand in Hand is looking for referrals in all counties except Tarrant.

Estrella Griggs reported the next CBMCS training will be held October 27-28 and November 3-4. Efforts are still underway to find a site, and anyone who can provide space should let her know. Estrella also reported there is a new Cultural and Linguistic Competence Book Club. The group is currently reading "Color Blind" by Tim Wise. The Book Club discussed the first chapter at its initial meeting last week. The next meeting will be November 10 at The Botanic Garden.

Crisis Services - Mark Ware reported there have been 18 admissions to the Crisis Respite Unit in 2011, and 94 have completed addiction treatment. Crisis Stabilization has served 776. MCOT has served 351 direct crisis line referrals. The Crisis Line has received 83,236 calls. Two staff members are currently going through Cognitive Processing Therapy training. Crisis Services will hold an Open House in its offices at MHMR on Hulen, Ste. 126, on Wednesday, October 12, beginning at 10 a.m. It will be an opportunity for visitors to see the expanded location.

CCHAPS – Patsy reported that she has met with Ginny Hickman and Elizabeth Johnson about the new survey. In addition, Denton County has selected mental health as its primary issue of focus. CCHAPS has asked Mental Health Connection to work with Denton County to help determine how the community wants to organize.

Announcements

Richard Vickers provided an update on pending discussions related to community health workers' employment and billing. He also reported that the Fort Worth Police Department has completed its first mental health officer certification. The Department is hoping to have 200 to 300 officers certified as mental health peace officers.

Joan Barcellona distributed a flyer about the December 12 Mental Health Connection meeting, which will feature decorations and a light holiday breakfast. Kelly Brand, who oversees a team that visits Homeless Camps, will present information. All members are encouraged to bring something for those living in the Homeless Camps. Joan's flyer included suggested items.

Susan announced there would not be a Mental Health Connection meeting in November. Instead, everyone is urged to attend the Bridging the Gap Symposium on November 7 and 8.

Patsy thanked all those who participated in the All America City celebration. Approximately 100 Mental Health Connection members attended.

Patsy recognized attendees who have been selected as change agents. Mental Health Connection received more than 60 applications for 50 spots. Almost all Mental Health Connection agencies are participating, along with some who are not members. The change agents will help facilitate table discussions at Bridging the Gap, which will be led by Ellen Kagen and Seth Verry, two highly trained and exciting motivational speakers and experts in transformational change. The work accomplished during the Symposium will lead to a Search Conference on Thursday and Friday, March 1 and 2, 2012. Seth and Ellen will return to help with the conference. The bones of the Mental Health Connection strategic plan will come from that session.

Patsy announced Marjorie McColl Petty, Regional Director of the US Department of Health and Human Services, will be presenting an update on the Health Care Affordability Act at the Symposium. In addition, Mental Health Connection will present the Kenneth Barr Award to TCU for its sponsorship of Bridging the Gap over the past five years.

Next Meeting

There will be no meeting in November. The next meeting will be held Monday, December 12, at 8:30 a.m. at The Women's Center, 1723 Hemphill.

Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:05 a.m.