

MARIN COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES
MHSA IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE
MEETING #4 – TUESDAY March 20, 2007

Meeting Notes

Welcome and introductions of Implementation Committee Members were done by Bobbie Wunsch.

Public Comment: Lisa Schwartz from the County Office of Education – Phoenix Academy, spoke about the loss of funding for substance abuse and possible other mental health programs at Phoenix Academy. She expressed interest in learning if there is a “fit” with MHSA funds and their program.

Update from CMHS Director Bruce Gurganus: Discussed several “attacks” on MHSA funds statewide.

- State Budget Update – possible loss of AB2034 (HAVEN) funding. Marin’s AB2034 allocation represents 78% of Marin’s MHSA CSS funds. The impact is enormous.
- State Sheriff’s Association proposal for MHSA funds – when individuals get out of prison they are sent back to their home county for a re-entry program. They would like MHSA funds to help pay for this program.
- Another proposal to bring inmates to County mental health for 5150 evaluation when they are released from prison.
- Alzheimer’s group seeking MHSA funds.
- Statewide Office of Suicide Prevention seeking MHSA funds.
- Diversion and mental health court for anyone who a police officer suspects has mental illness and suspects has committed a crime would be brought to the county mental health director for evaluation/treatment.

Discussion followed regarding whether or not the Implementation Committee could respond as a group with a statement against the “attacks” on MHSA funds. Kim Denn volunteered to write a letter and committee members who want to sign the letter can do so. CMHS staff will provide list of members to Kim.

Bruce also informed the committee about the use of one-time training funds:

- The Marin client group awarded 2 scholarships to clients for scholarships to the California Association of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Counselors (CAADAC) Program.
- The Marin family group has made arrangements for Bob Reiser to make a presentation on Best Practices for Bi-Polar Disorder. This presentation is open to the public.

Older Adult Program finally has space! The office will be at 10 North San Pedro Road.

Wellness Campus – plans are moving ahead for health, mental health and social services to open a new site in the San Rafael/Canal area. The target date for opening is December 2007.

MHSA Program Updates:

Children’s System of Care (CSOC) – Ann Pring – Working on SB 162 Wraparound plan. They have hired a facilitator to run Wraparound meetings. 24 clients are currently enrolled in the program. Bilingual Family Partner has been hired by Matrix.

Transition Age Youth (TAY) – Jay Zlotnick - Buckelew Program referrals are slower than anticipated, but they are coming in. Talking with Matrix about subcontracting for a Family Partner for the program. Marsha Leonard is now taking referrals for the program. Her number is 499-6755.

Support and Treatment After Release (STAR) – Diane Slager – Marin County received a \$1 million grant to expand the program from 50 clients to 75 with additional services. They have added a Substance Abuse Counselor through a partnership with Family Services Agency. Will be adding a 0.5 FTE Family Partner through a partnership with Community Action Marin. Creating a step-down program with a Senior Peer Case Manager serving 10-15 clients at a lower level of service intensity. Plan to roll this program out in a few weeks. Working on getting more staff hired with the recently received grant money.

Marin At-Risk Senior Team (MAST) – Diane Slager – Patty Lyons was recently hired as the supervisor, she will begin next Monday. She will immediately begin staff recruitment. The office will be located at 10 North San Pedro Road, Suite 1020. Aging, Public Guardian, Social Services, IHSS and Mental Health will all be co-located and collaborating in the project.

Southern Marin Service Site – Jeff Hall – Family Service Agency – Starting to work out of their new office, the building should be complete next month. They’ve hired 2 bilingual staff a few part-time staff and are working on hiring a peer counselor.. Doing lots of networking with various organizations and groups in the community. His hope is that through networking , referrals will materialize. Created referral process with southern Marin schools. They plan to have a grand opening ceremony in a month or two.

Enterprise Expansion – Barbara Coley – Enterprise is working on putting together resources for a resource referral center. There is the possibility of expanding hours on the weekends and expanding the number of peer counselors at the center. One peer is taking over keeping WRAP

information together in one place. They have yet to make any progress in finding a bilingual peer counselor.

Bruce Gurganus went over the Additional Funding Requests for Approved MHSA Programs handout with the Committee and invited discussion of the document. He also shared a letter from the Contractor's Association requesting additional funding for 3 items. The items include:

1. Provide funding to respond to the Adult Workgroup unfunded recommendation for "Coordinated case management and psychiatric services for people who are functionally impaired by mental illness but don't meet criteria for hospitalization, medication clinic or case management."
2. Provide the opportunity for Community Based Organizations to also benefit from the approved Intern Stipend Funds.
3. Provide the opportunity for Community Based Organizations to also benefit from the approved Bilingual Mental Health Services Funds.

Lisa Schwartz from MCOE/Phoenix Academy, again addressed the Committee regarding their loss of funding from several funding streams. She talked about her hope of recouping some of their losses through MHSA funds.

Bobbie Wunsch reviewed with the Committee the additional funding requests that did not get funded. She put the request to the group that the current requests presented at today's meeting be approved and the unfunded list be kept alive for future funding opportunities. The Committee voted to accept the current requests, with one abstention and one rejecting the request.

There was discussion about the time allotted for the Committee to review and discuss the requests. Committee members provided the following feedback:

1. The time allotted for discussing the items was too short.
2. The group would like to have "line item veto" power. They would like to have the ability to vote on items separately.
3. When any crucial decisions are to be made, the group would agree to meet more often in order to take the time for fuller discussion.

Bruce Gurganus informed the Committee about the upcoming Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) meeting with the State on April 26th in Emeryville. He encouraged Committee members to attend in order to become more informed about PEI issues. He also encouraged Committee members to bring ideas they or their stakeholders have. He asked that any requests come to him with costs attached, evidence based practice documentation and discussion regarding how the idea will further transform the mental health system.

Bruce solicited volunteers for PEI and Education & Training subcommittees. The following Committee Members volunteered:

PEI Committee

Kim Denn
Elberta Erickson
Amy Riech

Education & Training Committee

Elberta Erickson
Margaret Hallett
Jay Zlotnick

Donna Garske
Lisa Schwartz
Ann Pring

Donna Garske

Bobbie Wunsch asked the Committee to refresh their knowledge and understanding of the MHSA rules for each type of funding, who the target groups are and what the targeted services are. She indicated that the subcommittees would meet before the next Implementation Committee Meeting in May.

Bruce Gurganus announced that the Implementation Committee is still seeking Older Adult and Latino representation.

Public Comment: None

Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 22, 2007
10:00AM – Noon
120 N. Redwood Road
San Rafael, CA
Redwood Room (2nd floor)