Meeting Notes

Members in attendance: Larry Lanes, Kay Browne for NAMI, Eileen Becker, Michael Payne, Margaret Hallett, Georgie Farren for Linda Tavaszi, Dawn Hensley, Vinh Lu, and Marty Frankel
CMHS staff: Bruce Gurganus, Chris Kughn, Patty Lyons, Kristen Gardner
Guests: Gary Najarian of HHS Prevention Hub, Mary Ruth Gross and Barbara Cobb of MAPE

1. Bruce Gurganus welcomed and thanked the committee for attending today’s meeting. The Committee members introduced themselves. There were no public comments.

2. Chris Kughn gave a report on current and future Workforce, Education, and Training (WET) projects with a calendar of events over the next three months.

2. Kristen Gardner, the Prevention Early Intervention (PEI) Coordinator, asked for support for expanding three of the current PEI projects: Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation with Jewish Family and Children’s Services, Transition Age Youth with Huckleberry, and Canal Alliance. Vinh recommended that some effort be put into serving the Vietnamese speaking community living in the Canal Area. The Committee supported these two year expansions.

3. Kristen then described the process by which the Older Adult PEI Program has been redesigned in order to serve more older adults and not just those in the Meals on Wheels program. The group supported the concept of this expansion as well as an increase in ACASA which serves Spanish speaking older adults with peer counseling.

4. Technical assistance will be provided to the PEI contractors on how to collect information about and better serve Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBT) clients. Spectrum has agreed to provide this
assistance. Other opportunities for technical assistance were also discussed including media training.

5. Kristen also engaged the Committee in a conversation about possible strategies for one-time PEI funds that could fund a project or two for up to two years. Discussion centered on joining with current community coalitions, mental health first aid, and teen screen. The PEI Committee will continue working on this.

6. Patty Lyons described the Innovation project that was approved by the Oversight and Accountability Commission in January. Buckelew Programs will open a crisis residential program as an alternative to acute hospitalization. Patty will lead a stakeholder group to advise on the process and operations and the first meeting in September 15th. Those interested should contact Patty.

7. Bruce of the Information Technology issues including the efforts to implement ShareCare as the new billing and data software system for CMHS.

8. Bruce discussed Statewide PEI Projects and the Joint Powers Authority (JPA) called CalMHSA. Statewide projects include: Student Mental Health Initiative; Suicide Prevention; Stigma Reduction and Training and Technical Assistance.

Family Service Agency of Marin was funded ($1,200,000 over three years) to create a suicide prevention line that would cover Marin, Sonoma, Napa, Lake, Solano, and Mendocino Counties. It would create a North Bay crisis line available to all six counties’ residents.

9. There were no public comments.

10. Meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Next Meeting will be scheduled as needed.