

Region 4 Combined RAC and MH board meeting, January 8, 2014.

Meeting documents are posted in a separate link under the Minutes Banner at www.RAC4.dhw.idaho.gov

RAC Provider Subcommittee Attendees:

Stephanie Alvarez, Rosie Andueza, Sara Bartles, Teri Carrigan, Melanie Curtis, Suzette Driscoll, Lori Farrens, Jennifer Fishman, LaDessa Foster, Kenny Gray, Dennis Hardziej, Amy Jeppesen, Sandy Jones, Yvonne Ketchum, Kim Keys, Greg Lewis, Jim Meldrum, Audrey Palmer, Darren Richman, Isaiah Sarault, Cindy Shotswell, Laura Thomas, Delanie Valentine, Gina Westcott

Meeting called to order at 9:10 a.m.

IDJC was not able to attend – a copy of their budget update is in the meeting documents.

IDOC Update – Greg Lewis indicated that the most current budget information will be available later this week and he will send it to Laura to include in the meeting documents. He explained the format show pre and post WITS implementation data – so the information dated through 9/30/13 is pre WITS and data after that date is post WITS. IDOC made their appearance for requesting Millennial Funds and while nothing is final yet, indications appear positive for continued Millennium Funding. Millennium Funding comprises 1.8 million out of IDOC's 4.78 million budget for direct treatment services. IDOC has also submitted additional funding requests for the next fiscal year for SUDS treatment; stay tuned to see what is approved this Legislative session.

The Council of State Governments has released draft recommendations that are supportive of programs and treatment as a means to reduce prison growth. These recommendations may have use in support of IDOC's current budget requests.

One positive outcome of WITS implementation is the faster turnaround time from referral to placement for treatment.

BPA – Yvonne Ketchum, the Director of Provider Networks introduced Region 5's regional coordinator Cindy Shotswell. LaDessa Foster and Sara Bartles were available for answering questions. Yvonne noted that BPA is working on updating their website to provide a central location for information distribution. They are sensitive to the fact that emails with attachment can over load providers' systems. Their plan is to send email notifications with hot links to updates. A new Provider Manual is in the works; efforts are underway to streamline information and make access as easy as possible. Yvonne plans to make visits with providers a priority to achieve goals of maintaining the capacity of the network and providing best service possible.

The Audit Tool is nearly final; BPA's Regional Coordinators are finalizing the tool this week. Once it is final, there will be training for providers in addition to a technical assistance approach to implementation. The new audit tool incorporates previous BPA audit areas and now IDAPA and CASAT criteria.

Providers shared several concerns with the implementation of WITS for various partner organizations. Examples include: If ABS episode numbers don't match the number of episodes in WITS, the discrepancy creates problems for the client file; providers cannot easily identify denied Authorized Continued Reviews for clients through a single report. Providers cannot easily reconcile their payments received, denied and cost adjustments.

BPA is going to draft a list of current known issues and circulate to providers to add additional issues. The intent is to have a means to work through a list and have a place for providers to see resolution or status. BPA will follow up with DHW WITS staff to work on the payment reconciliation reporting issues.

Providers were candid in sharing the amount of staff time spent on documentation – a time study from one agency shows 48% of time is spent on documentation. They are experiencing a significant financial loss - \$57 per hour of state funded SUDS treatment service. Providers voiced concern about maintaining a capable workforce; some have had newly hired staff leave within weeks of hire (and some veteran staff) due to the amount of paperwork required for SUDS when much less is required in private pay and mental health services. Providers are committed to helping make the new systems work, but the substantial economic losses are affecting business viability. Concerns for the number of providers who will still be in business 18 months to 2 years from now were raised.

DHW – Rosie Andueza indicated that DHW is working through budget number discrepancies (pre and post WITS implementation) and expects to have a report to share within a few weeks. The overall budget is slightly overspent; however the PWWC portion of the budget is significantly overspent. Federal program requirements are being reviewed for PCCW Priority population program compliance and appropriate expenditures. Measures to address the overspend will be announced when final.

Recovery Centers are moving forward with a focus on being locally driven, community owned. Canyon County has significant interest and is hosting a Town Hall meeting on February 14. Region 4 interested individuals are welcome to attend for information sharing; Laura will send out meeting information when available in the next couple weeks. Anyone interested should RSVP for the meeting.

Recovery Community Organizations – a workshop on how to form a Recovery Organization will be held March 17-19, 2014 in Boise. The goal is to have a few people from every region attend, with more from the local area. People in recovery are encouraged to participate – CCAR information indicates recovery efforts are more successful when people in recovery are engaged in efforts.

Rule changes on background checks – to allow a waiver process for individuals working in SUDS and MH programs. Once the rules are passed, they will be effective July 1, 2014. A process for how to implement the rule will occur after the rule passes. Rosie will keep the group informed as progress is made.

Optum – Isaiah Sarault reminded everyone of the Resiliency and Recovery Training scheduled for January 24 from 9 to 11 am at Region 4 offices, Room 131 (same location as this meeting). To register, contact Amy Wernsing at 208 914-2236 or email amy.m.wernsing@optum.com. Optum is providing webinar based training for Peer Support Specialist in Provider Services.

Subcommittee was adjourned at 9:55 a.m. for the combined RAC and MH Health board meeting.

Attendees: Stephanie Alvarez, Rosie Andueza, Teri Carrigan, Rob Christensen, Chris Christopher, Melanie Curtis, Greg Dickerson, Suzette Driscoll, Russ Duke, Ross Edmunds, Lori Farrens, Jennifer Fishman, LaDessa Foster, Kenny Gray, Dennis Hardziej, Robin Hausheer, Amy Jeppesen, Sandy Jones, Yvonne Ketchum, Kim Keys, Amy Korb, Jewelle Mapes, Casey Moyer, Kate Pape, Audrey Palmer, Darren Richman, Isaiah Sarault, Christina Smith, Cindy Shotswell, Laura Thomas, Delanie Valentine, Gina Westcott, Ginger Wright

Meeting was called to order by Greg Dickerson. Brief introductions followed approval of the agenda. The minutes from the combined RAC MH Board meeting November 13, 2013 were approved.

Ross Edmunds, Division of Behavioral Health Administrator for DHW provided an update on the current legislative year and transformation of behavioral health. At this time, the transformation legislation has been drafted and is in Routing Slip (RS) form. Once a version is available for public distribution, RAC and MH board members will be informed. Revisions made since the last draft distributed were based on feedback from the Courts, participants in the Jeff D. law suit and comments from various individuals. A summary of the revisions include:

Re-establishment of an Inter-Agency Behavioral Health Cooperative (comprised of directors of agencies, county representation, consumer/family representation of SUDS and MH services). This is a state level organization with a focus on clients with criminal justice involvement.

Wording changes to include “Family Supports” in addition to Recovery Support Services – to better reflect the needs of children and their families.

Clarification that if a regional board collects fees for services those receipts can be retained by that regional board for program use.

Wording on the protected classes will stay consistent with current statutes.

Wording on the work of Regional Behavioral Health Centers will reflect the continuum of services and include treatment of individuals who voluntarily seek treatment without other means of securing treatment, care of committed individuals, and individuals in crisis. This listing is not in priority order nor exhaustive of continuum, but does emphasize the desire to serve individuals earlier in the continuum of care.

At this time, Ross is optimistic that the legislation will retain support from last year and gain additional support needed for passage. The transformation allows for more local influence for services that are not provided by insurance coverage.

Other legislation presented by the department regards Community Crisis Centers – two different pieces, one for funding of 3 centers and one for rules to operate Community Crisis Centers. A new loan repayment program for MD’s and other middle level professionals at state hospitals will be introduced. Other loan repayment programs available don’t apply to MDs and others working at state hospitals.

Legislation to prevent the access of E-cigarettes (which provide vaporized nicotine) to children is also being introduced with the goal of protecting children.

The rule changes regarding criminal background checks discussed by Rosie Andueza at the provider subcommittee round out the behavioral health legislation.

A package of information of sheets on Community Crisis Centers, Community Recovery Centers and Transformation were distributed (see meeting documents). It was noted for those interested in communicating with legislators, the sheets provide talking points and data.

Laura will send out information on signing up for MyBillTracker – for those who want to receive emails on legislation of interest.

Russ Duke from Central District Health Department provided perspective from the public health viewpoint. They see the opportunities from transformation as positive; substance use disorders and mental health are public health concerns. CDHD board is interested in seeing where transformation legislation goes and continuing conversations with Region 4.

Rob Christensen from DHW provided an overview of the new Idaho Youth Treatment Program (see meeting documents for details and Rob's contact information.) The program is for transitional age youth 18-24 years old. It uses an adolescent model of the community reinforcement approach, which is an evidence-based program and grant funded by SAMHSA. Region 4 is part of the first year implementation of the program.

Elisha Figueroa from the Office of Drug Policy (ODP) introduced Marianne King and Sharlene Johnson. Marianne provided an overview of how the block grant funds for prevention services that have been administered by Benchmark will be transitioned to ODP in the next few months. Sharlene provided information on the SPF-SIG grant that ODP will be implementing over the next five years, with the focus on coalition development. Elisha gave a brief update on legislative issues including legislation to require any prescriber with a controlled substances license to register for Idaho's prescription monitoring program. Although use is not mandatory, it is hoped that usage will increase as a result of this measure. The state's Prescription Drug Workgroup consisting of medical practitioners, licensing boards, medical associations, law enforcement, and legislators support the measure. They have also launched a prescription drug abuse awareness campaign, Lock Your Meds Idaho. ODP is keeping their eye on any other synthetic drugs that need regulation; because the federal government took action on 25i state law is not needed. Providers noted that clients in treatment are using Kratom and ODP may want to look into what can be done for this substance.

Networking Update:

Kenny Gray – Pioneer Health is now offering outpatient services in their Garden City location.

Terri Carrigan – RADAR is helping to sponsor an Underage Drinking Workshop on February 4, 2014 and it is open to the public. Check their webpage (Note: there is a link from www.RAC4.dhw.idaho.gov) She

also noted that ICADD is scheduled for May 12 for preconference sessions and May 13-15 for conference at the BSU Student Union. Topics include ASAM, WITS, Data, and Underage Drinking.

Melanie Curtis from SHIP shared that through their VA contract they are now using Recovery Coaching and have classes in nutrition for veterans.

Isaiah Sarault from Optum announced that Peer Support Specialists training webinars are January 15-17 for providers who want to learn more about adding this to their services. He also reminded everyone of the January 24, 2014 Resiliency and Recovery training from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at Region 4 offices in room 131 (same location as the meeting today).

Christina Smith from Boise State Counseling updated the group on BSU's campus smoking policy – it now prohibits use of e-cigarette device in buildings. She noted increased interest in sober living on campus. She's doing classes on alcohol awareness with student groups.

Drug Free Idaho and Boise Police Department are sponsoring Bigs and Blue Basketball Tournament March 15 – a fund raiser for DFI and youth programs. Basketball teams can register for \$250 each; great event for family fun. Donations for silent auction items are needed and appreciated. See meeting documents for more details or contact Robin Hausheer at www.drugfreeidaho.org

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Next combined RAC and MH Board meeting is Wednesday, March 12, 2014 in Room 131 at Region 4 offices, at 10 a.m. to noon.

Next RAC Providers Subcommittee is prior to the combined RAC and MH Board meeting is Wednesday, March 12, 2014 at 8:45 a.m.

Children's Mental Health Subcommittee meetings are Tuesday, January 14; February 11 and March 11 – all at 8:30 a.m. in Room 138 at Region 4 offices.