

Region 5 Behavioral Health Community Board

Meeting Minutes

11:30 ~ 2:30

December 4, 2013

Present:

Susan Carpenter, Scott Rasmussen, Leon Mills, Lee Heider, Frances Wright, Kim Dopson, Janice Kroeger, Mychel Matthews, Pam McCarroll, Donna Pener, Kevin Pettus, Michelle Pospichal, Clark Kauffman, Senator Jim Patrick, Lela Patteson, Martha Stevenson, Linda Wright, Representative Stephen Hartgen, Beth Cothorn, Christa Hannold, Janelle Johnson, Angenie McCleary, Mike Waite, Eric Jones, Debbie Thomas, Carmalin Resz, Lori Stewart, Gina Westcott, Amy Wernsing, Amanda Lehto, Aaron Darpi, Audrey Palmer, Kent Ireton, Lee Wilson, Lance Clow, Dr. Susan Carpenter, Helen Edwards (phone), Mick Hodges (phone), Candice Falsetti (phone), Rosie Andueza (phone), Brian Pike, Representative Pence, Senator Patrick

Excused:

Carmen Babb, Bev Ashton, Nancy Kunau, Rick Huber

Next meeting:

January 8, 2014

I. Announcements

Invited guests: Senator Lee Heider, Representative Kauffman, Representative Hartgen, Commissioner Mills, Commissioner McCleary, Gina Westcott, Commissioner Edwards, Representative Clow, Representative Pence, Senator Patrick

II. Business

Agenda:

Meeting with legislators and commissioners
OPTUM training on Recovery & Resiliency

Approval of Minutes:

Motion to approve minutes for October and November – Eric Jones
Motion seconded – Deb Thomas
Minutes unanimously approved

III. Discussion:

Transformation legislation – Some of the transformation legislation affects our power and ability to do things as a board. We have a very committed board in Region 5 and want to get helpful, local community based services to clients in our area. Funding the Board is essential in being able to do that. The RAC (Regional Advisory Committee) has also been identified in the transformation legislation, addressing substance abuse issues in our community. Our Board as it currently stands is made up of members of both the Regional Behavioral Health Board and the Regional Advisory Committee.

Legislation was proposed late in the session and there was not enough time to get it through the legislative process. This year it is hoped that it will be brought forward early in the session.

The current "Board" meets, but cannot officially form, until the legislation has passed.

Local Boards are useful because they are able to see the gaps in services as well as funding issues.

County perspective:

Counties struggle financially with mental health issues. The local hospital stay and mental examination are expensive.

Being on a Board such as this helps us work together as a community to assist individuals in moments of crisis. Anything we can do to change outcomes for the better is beneficial.

Rural counties have been greatly affected after the economic downturn. There were already few resources in these areas and when the economy slumps these areas are affected even more

Private Providers perspective:

Caring for people in crisis has become more complicated because of changes in the various funding sources. When a private provider sees a person in crisis they spend a lot of time and resources up front locating funding before they can actually begin to treat the person.

Several providers have gone out of business due to some of the changes in legislation. When PSR (Psychosocial Rehabilitation) services were lost many clients have suffered because they did not have someone to help them accomplish daily tasks. This happened when Medicaid stopped funding these services.

Private providers spent a great deal of money paying for staff to be certified when it was mandated in order to provide services under Medicaid. Now that OPTUM has taken the behavioral health population covered by Medicaid the certification is no longer required.

OPTUM has been great to work with for many of the private providers.

Ultimately private providers need to have a voice in what changes are made.

Legislative perspective:

The legislature listens and reviews the rules that the Dept. of Health & Welfare writes. These rules are either approved or not approved. The rules are discussed and looked at as far as who they affect. The public is always welcome during these sessions and can have an impact at that point.

The laws are brought to the legislators, the legislators do not create the laws, and they only approve or disapprove or "table" the law for a further date.

Rules are written during the summer and the public can be involved at that point as well.

Money is allocated through the legislature. There are recommendations on how much is needed by each department and the legislature. The department presents the need to the legislature and once JFAC has approved the allocation it is brought to the body of the legislature for approval.

During this last recession the budget was cut significantly and it is still not back to the level it was in 2008. The implications of some of the budget cuts had significant impacts on the public. We are slowly rebuilding. There is a realization that we are asking many agencies to do the same amount of work with fewer resources. These meetings are very good for understanding where various players are affected and seeing each other's points of view.

There is recognition that we can't just put people in jails or facilities without giving them treatment.

Communication with the legislators is essential to make things work for everyone.

Most of the money in the budget is in three areas: Education, Health & Welfare, and Corrections.

Advocacy perspective:

The services that are provided to those in crisis situation are appreciated.

Other:

Health initiative trust moneys are available for health needs within the Twin Falls community. These moneys tend to be underutilized. To apply for these funds you can find the application through <http://twinfallshealthinitiativestrust.org/>

Next Meeting: January 8, 2014