

**Minutes of the
Winnebago County Mental Health Advisory Committee
Wednesday, February 11, 2015 @ 7:30 a.m.
Rosecrance Center, 1021 North Mulford Road, Rockford, IL**

Present: Dick Kunnert, Carol Klint, Dr. Charles Smith, Angie Goral, Matt Toohey

Others Present: Dave Peterson, Melissa Westphal, Ron Clewer, Dr. Penny Billman, Rick Pollack, Susan Vela, Lee (UU Church), and Mike Bacon

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting began at approximately 7:35 a.m. with everyone being welcomed. The agenda was reviewed for the need for any additions. There were none.

REVIEW OF JANUARY 14, 2015, MHAC Meeting Minutes:

A motion was made by Dick Kunnert and seconded by Carol Klint to accept the minutes as presented with all members voting "aye".

ROCKFORD HEALTH COUNCIL NEEDS ASSESSMENT – SUMMARY:

Mr. Bacon referred everyone to the 2014 Healthy Community Study Summary that was part of the meeting packet. The complete report is found on RHC's website in zip format. The Assessment was undertaken using extant data. Members expressed some concern about the phrasing of some of the behavioral health outcomes listed in the summary. These outcomes might be better presented by projecting results in positive terms as opposed to the reverse, e.g. 35% of respondents indicate mental health issues have an impact on their neighborhoods. It was further suggested that the behavioral health issues described in this Assessment be extracted and compiled in a report that could be a reference document for MHAC and County Board, which could accompany other work of the Committee profiling the existing system and its gaps.

UPDATE FROM TEAMS (i.e. DATA/SURVEY, MESSAGING/MARKETING, FUNDING AND RECOMMENDATIONS):

The messaging/marketing committee has not met since last month as reported by Angie Goral and Melissa Westphal. Dick Kunnert indicated that the recommendations and funding committee has not formally met but he has continued his work on a document describing the Local Components of the Community Support Services / System in Winnebago County. Mr. Kunnert was commended by committee members for the work on this. Mr. Kunnert indicated that Matt Toohey was a lot of help on the services in the intellectual delay - related area. Perhaps Melissa Westphal could aid in reviewing and adding to the substance-abuse service area. After additional discussion it was decided that a subcommittee would be helpful in reviewing the work thus far and bringing back recommendations on how the remainder of this work, assessing the local system, could be facilitated. Matt Toohey agreed to host that meeting. Committee members volunteered (i.e. Carol Klint, Dick Kunnert, Ron Clewer, Dr. Penny Billman, Matt Toohey and Mike Bacon). The meeting for this workgroup will be on Wednesday, February 25 at 1:30 PM, at Access Services, Forest Hills Road.

Dr. Billman briefly discussed the draft survey and its utility in adding to both the Community Health Needs Assessment and the Report developing on the Community Support Programming System.

OTHER INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION:

Ron Clewer reviewed the Housing Authority's work with homeless frequent offenders (super-utilizers) where many have been placed at the Burlington Oaks facility. The challenge with this population is keeping them in a stable housing environment and supporting that environment with the necessary services to minimize / eliminate nuisance and crime related activities. Dick Kunnert reminded the committee of the value of a common facility where support services and case management can be provided more efficiency in an environment that enhances interaction, engagement and the development of relationships. Dick mentioned the Duluth Minnesota example where a common facility has been established with 40 apartments.

Carol Klint and Angie Goral discussed Carol's work at the Longwood facility on East State Street initiated originally by Brad Roos, Zion Development. Through her volunteer work a meaningful support network has been developed. The experience there indicates that these supports do work in reducing turnover and maximize compliance. Carol indicated that her work is only part time and unfortunately less than adequate to meet all of the need.

Donnie Parham brought up an example where an individual was in the new Justice Center lobby for 36 hours. The Rockford Human Services Department has in-serviced law-enforcement and EMS officials on their new initiative together with the Care Continuum to address the needs of the most frequent offenders in the community, with a primary focus of providing access to short-term, leading to long-term housing and the necessary services to stabilize their situation. Deputy Parham indicated the efficiency and value of the single point of entry into these new services through the City of Rockford Human Services Department. Donny further indicated that there appears to be good progress in addressing the housing issues but suggested we may still have a ways to go in providing the necessary support service.

Dave Peterson indicated that too frequently those developing policy don't have a sound understanding of these complex problems. That has been one of the purposes of the Behavioral Health Summit series, with the third in this series coming up in April. Mr. Peterson indicated his work in trying to reach out to the Governor to see first-hand how a network of services can work in saving larger expenditures on the criminal justice side. He mentioned the RIC as an example that has reduced recidivism. It remains a challenge to convince policy makers. Dr. Billman added to the discussion by indicating the demonstrated success of those going off probation leaving with the skills that can lead to gainful jobs / employment.

There was further discussion by the committee members and others present on the Governor's budget. Matt Toohey indicated that this year's funding (i.e. 2015) could be cut by 10% and next year could be a 20% reduction. What is not clear is whether or not that 20% is on top of the 10% for this year or a sum total of 20% over the two-year period.

NEXT MEETING:

Mr. Bacon reminded everyone that the next meeting of MHAC will be Wednesday, March 11. He further reminded those who may be interested, given the discussion today, of the super utilizer's workgroup that will meet at the Rosecrance Ware Center on North Main St. on March 18. There being no further items of business the meeting adjourned at approximately 8:50 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

J. Maichle Bacon

Approved by the Mental Health Advisory Committee: _____
DATE