

**Minutes of the  
Winnebago County Mental Health Advisory Committee  
Wednesday, January 14, 2015 @ 7:30 a.m.  
Rosecrance Center, 1021 North Mulford Road, Rockford, IL**

**Present:** Dr. Charles Smith, Phil Eaton, Donny Parham, Carol Klint, and Dick Kunnert

**Others Present:** Melissa Westphal, Dave Peterson, Harlan Johnson, Dr. Sandra Martell, Rick Pollack, Leigh Kuyper (Shelter Care Ministries), and Mike Bacon

The meeting began at approximately 7:35 a.m.

## **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Everyone wished each other a successful, healthy and peaceful new year. While there is much to discuss at this morning's meeting it was felt that before wrapping up it would be important for there to be some time spent on identifying goals to be accomplished for the coming year, with all concurring.

## **REVIEW OF December 10, 2014, MHAC Meeting Minutes:**

Additions or corrections to the minutes of the December 10, 2014 MHAC meeting were requested. There being none proposed, a motion was made by Donny Parham and seconded by Carol Klint to accept the minutes as presented with all members voting aye.

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

Melissa Westphal provided minutes from their messaging group meeting held on January 5. She presented a brief summary of their discussion including State funding concerns, attaching costs being incurred by the community because of inadequate behavioral health services and the lack of a system of services, the importance of labeling behavioral health disorders as diseases just like other chronic health conditions, the utility of a summit and a resource sharing event to clearly identify existing service, and the importance of supportive care following treatment when those being served are most vulnerable. There is much work to do but this committee is moving forward with an aggressive agenda.

There were no other committee meetings in the intervening month but the Data/Survey group and Funding/Recommendations group should be scheduling meetings.

## **OTHER MATTERS / INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

**ACMHAI Assessment and Planning Guides:** Mr. Bacon discussed the guides that were included in the packet for today's meeting which were developed by the Association for Community Mental Health Authorities in Illinois. Mr. Kunnert shared that NAMI had conducted an assessment of services in the 1990s in the Winnebago County area. Mr. Bacon mentioned the comprehensive behavioral health assessment that the Winnebago County Health Department contracted for through Health Systems Research at UICOM, completed in 1999 and continues to serve as a model for behavioral health assessments in other communities. There was also further discussion about the 2010 Community Health Needs Assessment conducted

as a community wide partnership effort through the Rockford health Council, which included behavioral health components.

Carol Klint urged that her work at the Longwood Center is a microcosm for both the strengths and weaknesses of our local behavioral health service system. Ultimately it is this level of direct interventions / assistance that determine our success. Much can be learned from looking more closely at this micro-level. This triggered much more discussion about how essential it is to assure connections to additional services and that the services be able to not just handoff but work well together in providing a seamless level of care. The example was mentioned of the DCFS challenges in attempting to manage too many children caught in the cycle of disfunction in foster-care, with Phil Eaton, Dick Kunnert, Donny Parham and Sandy Martell each discussing different aspects. Mr. Eaton specifically mentioned the program crisis response team funding from the State of Illinois may be in jeopardy under the new 2016 budget as an example of services that have worked well but may no longer be funded. Donny Parham mentioned the adage of paying sooner or later in connection with long sentences of youth / young adults.

**Other Information:** There was discussion about reaching out to the Cook County Sheriff's Department for insights into their aggressive behavioral health interventions. Mr. Peterson indicated that he had a contact at the chief deputy level in that department and will reach out to him for further input and perhaps a visit to this community/MHAC. Mr. Peterson also updated MHAC members on the planned April 23 Public Safety Summit that will touch on many of these issues.

Committee members discussed goals that they were interested in achieving for 2015. They included the compilation of more complete information on both the services and service gaps that exist for behavioral health interventions in Winnebago County and to prioritize and establish estimated cost for developing an integrated behavioral health care network that would address those areas of greatest deficiency.

**NEXT MEETING:**

There was a reminder of the next meeting, Wednesday, February 11, 2015 at Rosecrance Center located at 1021 N. Mulford Road, Rockford, IL.

Respectfully submitted,

J. Maichle Bacon

Approved by the Mental Health Advisory Committee: \_\_\_\_\_  
DATE