

**Minutes of the
Winnebago County Mental Health Advisory Committee
Wednesday, March 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, Phil Eaton

Others Present: Dave Peterson, Melissa Westphal, Ron Clewer, Dr. Penny Billman, Dr. Sandra Martell, Peggy Lee (UU Church), and Mike Bacon

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting began at approximately 7:40 a.m. with everyone being welcomed. The agenda was reviewed for the need for any additions. There were none.

REVIEW OF February 11, 2015, MHAC Meeting Minutes:

Mr. Toohey pointed out a typographical error which will be corrected. A motion was made by Dick Kunnert and seconded by Angie Goral to accept the minutes as corrected with all members voting "aye".

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

None of the three standing committees had met in the intervening month. Mr. Toohey and Mr. Kunnert mentioned the Community support analysis draft report workgroup meeting of Feb 25, which will be reported on in the next agenda item. Dr. Billman mentioned several grant opportunities that are being considered, including criminal justice (\$325k) and planning (\$200k), with planning perhaps being most helpful to MHAC. There was brief additional discussion.

MHAC ANALYSIS ON COMMUNITY SUPPORT PROGRAM & LOCAL COMPONENTS DRAFT

There was an overview of the February 25 Systems Analysis subcommittee meeting and intervening work of subcommittee members on the development of a survey tool to assess the current status of mental health service capacity currently available in the community. The tool resembles a matrix with service categories down the left-hand margin and categories of information on service capacity across the top of the spreadsheet. The service categories include population served, funding, wait list and number of unserved / underserved. There was discussion about whether or not there is need for additional capacity assessment questions. Additional categories could be understanding priorities, grant support, etc. Further it was suggested that while there needs to be room for clarifying comments, Dr. Martell indicated the importance of short, categorical answers that would enable the more ready assessment of findings and requiring less interpretation. This might be enabled by formatting the survey in Microsoft Access or similar program rather than an Excel spreadsheet with expandable text boxes. There was further discussion with a general consensus that this would be helpful. This will be taken under advisement at the next subcommittee meeting that needs to be scheduled before the conclusion of today's meeting. Mr. Kunnert indicated the importance of understanding the limitations of the existing service system. An example of how such an understanding can contribute to a clearer focus of services going forward is the U.S. Air Force

and their focus on suicide prevention enabled by a greater understanding of their limitations. Over the past five years they have dramatically reduced the suicide rate by almost fivefold.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES / COMMISSIONS (I.E. NAMI, OTHERS, ETC.)

Mr. Clewer indicated some of the challenges in his budget and support services that his organization has historically funded that need to be restructured for more comprehensive impact and alignment with future funding prospects. His client advocate position was used as an example where the future prospects for funding such services might be under the housing authority's capital budget by using a maximum of up to 16% of that budget to address issues such as the domestic violence / abuse, which can be underlain by drug and / or alcohol abuse and other social issues. There was a follow-up discussion about the importance of having a strong referral system in addition.

There was discussion about the State's 2015 budget close out process and prospects for FY 2016. Dr. Martell indicated the importance of having clear priorities and how essential it is that those priorities resonate as much as possible across all health and human services in the community. Each social service sector is being asked to support various funding and legislative initiatives, however now more than ever we must be united around a few select priorities that we all can advocate for through common messaging to local and state elected officials. Mr. Clewer indicated an interest on behalf of the Housing Authority to establish an advisory committee by pulling together community social service agencies to coordinate a referral system that can help the Housing Authority to better serve their residents and their support needs. Perhaps this might also at the outset represent an opportunity to establish the priorities that we need to be united behind for common advocacy. Mr. Clewer and Dr. Martell will co-host initially.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting of the Systems Analysis Subcommittee will be March 18 at 1:30 PM, Rosecrance Ware Center (N. Main St.). The next meeting of the MHAC will be April 8, 7:30 AM, Rosecrance Center, North Mulford location. With that the meeting adjourned at approximately 9 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

J. Maichle Bacon

Approved by the Mental Health Advisory Committee: _____
DATE