

**Minutes of the
Winnebago County Mental Health Advisory Committee
Wednesday, April 9, 2014 @ 7:30 a.m.
Rosecrance, 1021 N. Mulford, Rockford, IL**

Present: Richard Kunnert, Matthew Toohey, Donny Parham, Angie Goral, Carol Klint, Dr. Charles Smith

Others Present: Dave Peterson, Dr. Penny Billman, Harlan Johnson, Rick Pollack and Mike Bacon

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

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

For the benefit of those who hadn't been at the meeting previously, all Committee members introduced themselves.

REVIEW OF March 12, 2014 MINUTES:

The minutes of the March 12 meeting were mentioned with a motion from Carol Klint and seconded by Matt Toohey to accept the minutes as presented, with all voting aye.

COMMUNITY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT:

There was an extended discussion on proceeding with the Community Behavioral Health Needs Assessment. There was complete agreement on the part of all present that we needed to proceed as rapidly as possible. Mr. Peterson clarified that the County has identify resources that could support this work and encouraged that the work for the Behavioral Health Summit (November 2013) be closely coordinated with the work needed to be completed on behalf of the Mental Health Advisory Committee. It was the feeling that this might be best accomplished by separating tasks and proceeding with a contract with Health Systems Research (HSR) with the need to clarify the number and makeup of the focus groups to be carried out.

Dr. Billman clarified that she would be on hand to facilitate the coordination between the various components of this work to assure an end product that works for MHAC as well as the Behavioral Health Summit Action Plan.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SUMMIT ACTION PLAN

Ms. Billman reviewed the components of the draft Action Plan and the work that has gone into the development of this Plan, including the 17th Judicial Circuit. Mr. Kunnert has also had some input. Ms. Billman acknowledged the support and encouragement and ideas from Mr. Peterson as well. A great deal, of course, came out of the afternoon session at the November Behavioral Health Summit Strategy Session. It was this session that really led to the main components of the Action Plan that has since been development.

OVERVIEW - CRISIS STABILIZATION CENTER (ROSECRANCE)

Rosecrance was unable to be at today's meeting to provide this overview. Helpfully this could be covered at the next meeting.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES / COMMISSIONS

Mr. Toohey report that Milestones hosted a March meeting of Transform Rockford. This meeting had 60 plus attendees that offered many positive ideas. Mr. Johnson share other work discussing particularly how best to assimilate all of the input.

Dr. Smith challenged the Mental Health Advisory Committee with his concept entitled “A Feasible Mental Health Idea for Our Time – Make it Personal” Dr. Smith indicated the degree to which mental health services are limited with little opportunity to address the growing demand for early and late mental illness. Dr. Smith suggest that some of those living among us would be exceptional advocates to extend the behavioral health workforce who could be trained to help in personal ways that may in fact be much more than a surrogate for professional assistance and support. This is a concept that promotes multiplying the workforce by including those most impacted by behavioral health disorders. The public can get in next to the behavioral health professionals and learn about making it personal (i.e. preventing suicide, relieving the stress of depression, offering hope and relief, and validating a person’s reality). Mr. Bacon and others encouraged that this concept be kept in front of us as we continue work as an Advisory Committee. All thanked Dr. Smith for his thoughtfulness and exceptionally well-worded document.

Other informational items reviewed included the *County Health Rankings*, as well as the community guide on recommendations to reduce alcohol consumption and related harms. Some of these strategies may also be able to help fund behavioral health services.

OTHER MATTERS: None

NEXT MEETING:

There was a reminder of the next meeting, Wednesday, May 14, 2014.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no other items of business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 8:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

J. Maichle Bacon (Winnebago Count Health Department)

Approved by the Mental Health Advisory Committee: May 14, 2014
DATE