

**Minutes of the
Winnebago County Mental Health Advisory Committee
Wednesday, March 12, 2014 @ 7:30 a.m.
Rosecrance, 1021 N. Mulford, Rockford, IL**

Present: Donny Parham, Richard Kunnert, Angie Goral, Dr. Charles Smith

Others Present: Brad Benedict, Dave Peterson, and Mike Bacon

The meeting began at approximately 7:30 a.m.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Everyone introduced themselves for the benefit of Dr. Charles Smith, his first meeting. Everyone expressed their appreciation for his interest in serving on the MHAC.

REVIEW OF February 12, 2014 MINUTES:

There was a request for any changes or modifications to the meeting notes provided for the February 12 meeting. There were no suggested changes. There was a motion by Angie Goral and second by Donny Parham to accept the notes as presented with all voting aye.

COMMUNITY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT:

Mr. Bacon updated the Committee on the most recent discussion with Health Systems Research, including both Deb Lischwe and Dr. Alesia Hawkins, on the timing and scope of work. Mr. Peterson provided additional clarification that included needs of both his office and of the judicial system as it relates to additional assessment components, emulating from the Behavioral Health Summit. Mr. Peterson indicated that a draft of the recommendations from the Summit would be out soon. The MHAC is one of the groups that need to receive this report. It contains some recommendations that will add an additional dimension to the Behavioral Health Needs Assessment.

There was further discussion about the Behavioral Health Intercept Model and the potential role the MHAC is likely to be asked to play. This is an outgrowth of work by Mr. Peterson, Dick Kunnert, and Judge McGraw on the utility of the Intercept Model and intent to apply with fidelity this model to the local population connected with the Criminal Justice System. The concern was raised by Dick Kunnert, Angie Goral and Donny Parham about the potential loss of specificity in the attempt to simulate the broad base of input that has been and continues to be received as follow up to the November Behavioral Health Summit.

For example there was specific reference to family concerns and the lack of involvement so often in these households of the father or father-figure. Mr. Kunnert expanded on this further as did Mr. Parham. Mr. Parham indicated how interconnected all of this is to the unintended consequences of effort to create a safer community (i.e. war on crime and drugs). There was further discussion on the disproportionate impact on the African-American and Hispanic segments of communities across the country resulting from the lack of cultural sensitivity / humility and misdirected profiling. All of this has only served to compound those hardest hit by economic changes and being left with only a one worker families with children, not making enough to escape poverty in virtually all urban areas, which only further complicates the problems originally intended for correction.

CRISIS STABLIZATON CENTER (ROSECRANCE)

Because of a scheduling conflict this topic will be covered at the April MHAC meeting.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES / COMMISSIONS

There was a discussion about the Transform Rockford ongoing initiative. Members and guest alike were pleased with the progress being made. It was pointed out that there were a number of sessions scheduled for the coming weeks connected with the visioning initiative of this movement. Some of the sessions will be held at Rosecrance, and at least one other is scheduled for the Winnebago County Health Department. There was a general discussion about the need to reach those segments of the community that are so often under-represented in these types of assessment. It was emphasized that there needed to be different outreach strategies to reach those faced with our community's most significant needs.

OTHER MATTERS:

There was a brief discussion about the enclosed materials at this meeting which included a handout from Rosecrance on the Crisis Stabilization Center. Mr. Parham reminded Committee members of the material he provided highlighting the disproportionate burden of behavioral health problems in incarcerated populations. These articles do more than simply enumerate the matter, but depict the interconnectedness of the matters discussed previously and those matters that remain before MHAC. These all suggest the inadequacies of the existing behavioral health services system in this community.

NEXT MEETING:

There was a reminder of the next meeting, Wednesday, April 9, 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: April 9, 2014
DATE