

**Minutes of the  
Winnebago County Mental Health Advisory Committee  
Wednesday, June 12, 2013 @ 7:30 a.m.  
Rosecrance, 1021 N. Mulford, Rockford, IL**

**Present:** Phil Eaton, Angie Goral, Richard Kunnert, Dr. Marilyn Griffin, Donny Parham

**Absent:** Carol Klint, Matthew Toohey

**Others Present:** Joe Capone, Harlan Johnson, and Mike Bacon

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

Appreciation was expressed to Rosecrance (Mr. Eaton) for their continued accommodation of these monthly Advisory Committee meetings.

**MINUTES OF THE MAY 8, 2013 MEETING**

The May 8, 2013 Advisory Committee minutes were motioned to be adopted by Donny Parham and seconded by Angie Goral. There was no discussion and all members voted aye.

**CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH**

There was a review of the materials included in the packet around the issue of children's mental health. Both documents on this subject were from CDC providing an overview of mental health surveillance issues. Both documents accepted a standardized definition of mental disorders among children (i.e. serious deviations from expected cognitive, social and emotional development). These issues were characterized as being an important public health issue for our nation for several reasons including their prevalence, early onset and impact on child, family and community wellbeing. It is clear that all demographic groups are affected by mental disorders in childhood and the prevalence of all conditions increased with age, with the exception of Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) which peaked in the six to eleven year age group.

Prior discussions on promoting the agenda for the necessity of community supported behavioral health services have targeted the importance of child mental health issues. This provides a foundation for furthering that discussion and an opportunity to align local data with what has been assembled nationally to better understand the early and broad influence of these critical health issues locally.

There was a brief discussion about updating the slides and supplementing that with a short video that could help in telling one or more behavioral health stories that could reinforce the importance of the availability of a comprehensive behavioral health service network locally. Such stories could perhaps be from RPSD 205, social service agencies, etc. Mr. Kunnert has reached out to a couple of media groups including Pablo Corona and Greg Vance (Solid Line Media). Mr. Eaton indicated that Rosecrance has a prepared video on an adult case that perhaps could be modified for this use also.

## **REPORTS FROM OTHER BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMITTEES**

Both Joe Capone from NAMI and Harlan Johnson had matters to bring before the Committee including the ongoing work of various support groups within NAMI and the challenges for coverage and funding. Harlan discussed his Op Ed article encouraging any casino revenue to go towards supporting the behavioral health services infrastructure.

### **OTHER MATTERS:**

There was a brief discussion on the Proclamation issued by the County Board Chairman at the May 24 meeting. There was special recognition and appreciation expressed to Dick Kunnert and Angie Goral for their comments before the County Board in acceptance of the Proclamation. Also Dr. Marilyn Griffin was thanked for her efforts in trying to be there early enough to be part of the issuance of the Proclamation.

Mr. Eaton provided comments regarding the Triage Center – to date 660 individuals were served with 69% returning home, 99% were linked locally, 106 went through stabilization. The feedback from law enforcement is that there has been a substantial time savings. He also commented on the Juvenile Detention Assessment Center's screening issues and support services and SASS operated by Rosecrance – kids in crisis

### **NEXT MEETING**

There was a reminder of the next meeting on Wednesday, July 10, 2013.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further items on the agenda, the meeting adjourned at approximately 9:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted, J. Maichle Bacon

Approved by the Mental Health Advisory Committee: July 10, 2013  
DATE