



The Mental Health / Developmental Services Collaborative

Carlos Flores, Leslie Tremaine
Co-Chairs

August 6, 2008
Minutes

In Attendance:

Lori Banales
Barbara Devaney
David Riester
Stephen Mouton
Andrew Russell
Bob Hamilton
Mike Wiederstein

Bob Baldo
Jeanie Thurston
Peggie Webb
Andrew Cavagnaro
Ross Peterson
Eliana Lois

Jeff Payne
Jo Ellen Fletcher
Beth Robey
Ken Carabello
Becky Stuempfig
Patricia Ryan

Keith Penman
Emily Woolford
Carlos Flores
Olivia Balcao
Michael Januse
Tom Keenen

I. Introductions

Meeting called to order by Co-Chair Carlos Flores. Introductions were made.

II. Approval of Minutes/Agenda

Minutes of the April 30, 2008 meeting were approved by consensus as amended. JoEllen Fletcher added an announcement of the DDS health and Wellness Conference on Innovations in Diagnosis, treatment and Service Delivery in San Diego on September 24-26.

III. Report from Consultants

- A. Overview of Activities: Dave and Beth were invited to a meeting of the CMHDA Children's System of Care (CSOC) Committee. Initially the reason was to talk about a situation in Shasta County where Regional Centers were refusing to see clients until they had been refused services by the MH Psychiatrist. Dave said he would follow up with Far Northern. However, three different counties volunteered that they have developed partnerships with their RCs. Dave and Beth shared that it was a watershed moment to hear more positives for MH/DD relationships than negatives. Beth and Dave are also working with Golden Gate RC and SFMH to resolve an issue regarding the placement of a client into Napa State Hospital. Pat Ryan has offered to help as well. North Coast and Alta RC both reported that they have had clients in Napa State Hospital.
- B. Willow Glen Update— Meetings continue with Willow Glen in Yuba City about establishing a 16-bed short term crisis facility for Northern California Regional

Centers. Staff has been hired and the project should be ready to start accepting clients in 90-120 days. The facility shares a campus with two psychiatric health facilities (PHF) which can be used as a back-up if someone needs that additional level of care.

- C. Discussion about hosting a DD/MH Children's Services Summit – At the CMHDA CSOC meeting, a suggestion was made to have another statewide DD/MH Summit, but this time with a focus on children and early intervention. The following individuals volunteered(or were volunteered) to help Beth and Dave begin planning an event for late March/early April in Sacramento: Olivia Balcao, Lori Banales, Tom Kelly, Brian Salada, Drew Russell, Steve Mouton, Heather Anders, Joey Fletcher, Tom Keenen, and Paul Sorbo.

IV. Old Business:

- A. Psychiatrist Training – Dr. Andrew Russell gave a review of the conference held in San Jose in May. There were 94 people in attendance, including physicians, psychologists, Nurses, and LCSWs. The focus of the conference was dealing with the closure of Agnews and subjects included Adult Community-based Services for Dually diagnosed clients, psychopharmacology, the use of anti-convulsants for psychiatric issues, and aggression in youth. They also presented a case for discussion about a patient with multiple issues.
- B. Wellness Grants – Eliana Lois said that the Inland Regional Center-Riverside County Mental Health training for direct service providers is going well. Direct service providers are learning how to prevent and deal with crises thereby reducing PHF admissions. Dr. Lois will share the training curriculum with Collaborative members.
- C. Update on “Difficult to Serve” Projects
 - San Diego: Peggie Webb talked about the high profile collaboration between San Diego Regional Center and San Diego County Mental Health Services to reduce the frequency of psych hospital admissions. While their primary focus continues to be the identification and intensive treatment of those dually served individuals with the highest frequency of admissions, they are also developing training and consultation resources for prevention and early intervention. this includes simple behavior plans for use by Independent Living Services workers. They are developing strategies to reduce crime by people with mental illness. They are establishing treatment models to deal with alcohol and substance abuse by people with developmental disabilities and mental illness. They are paying special attention to the needs of Transition Age Youth aging out of the Children's system of Care. And, they are creating a training and certification process on serving people with a dual diagnosis for professionals and paraprofessionals.
 - Far Northern: Small crisis homes are up and running.
 - Alta: The Assertive Community Treatment program operated by Telecare should be open in 60-90 days.

- Valley Mountain: They have developed a 6-bed crisis home with a mobile crisis team to follow up upon discharge.

V. New Business

- A. University-based Centers for Excellence: Andrew Russell gave a report about the role of these Centers. Begun during the Kennedy Administration, this program established at least one center in every state along with a statewide Council on Developmental Disabilities. These entities were charged with the duty of providing education, technical assistance, research, advocacy and policy change. The three centers in California are located at USC, UCLA and UC Davis.
- B. DDS Project on Mental Health funded by MHSA: Joey Fletcher discussed the \$675,000 that DDS has received from MHSA dollars to promote community stabilization through training of families, practitioners and communities; early identification; services for at-risk consumers; in-patient diversion; assessment of existing programs; an on-line information base; and development of regional planning summits. She mentioned a website called ddhealthinfo.org which is designed to assist primary care providers. Included on this website are 5 mental health articles by Dr. Drew Russell.

VI. Current Issues:

A. Budget/Legislative/Policy Updates

Mental Health – Pat Ryan reported the following:

1. The planning estimates are out for the Prevention and Early Intervention monies and counties are currently putting together their plans. Only Monterey and Modoc have completed the process and been approved. The next opportunity for OAC approval is in September. The OAC and DMH are working on the guidelines for the Innovations funds.
2. In small counties, it is getting more and more difficult to find providers who will accept MediCal due to the 10% cut. Some pharmacies are trying to get the psychiatrists to exchange the newer psychotropics for the less expensive older medications.
3. The Department of Finance has conducted an audit of the implementation of the Mental Health Services Act by DMH. "The Act has morphed into repetitive and redundant requirements that have become so labor intensive for counties that they have the potential to divert energy and resources away from transformational services and supports." The DoF Office of State Audits and Evaluations had several recommendations for simplification of the process of providing MHSA funds to counties and the clarification of roles and responsibilities.

Developmental Disabilities – Bob Baldo reported on the following:

1. Intermediate Care Facilities serving 7500 RC clients are impacted by the state budget delay. Their bills to the Medi-Cal program will not be paid until the budget is passed. They seek financial assistance from regional centers to meet payroll and pay for food and supplies.
2. The Final Journey conference on end of life issues will be held in San Diego on November 17 and 18. The conference is sponsored by ARCA and SDRC.
3. The ARCA New Day conference on employment and housing will be held in February in San Francisco.
4. The 20 regional centers in the Association voted approval of a dues increase enabling ARCA to hire Lisa Jackson a full time consultant on housing issues.
5. SB 1175 (Steinberg) is being followed closely and is strongly supported by ARCA. This bill gives DDS the authority to approve RC proposals to lease housing under conditions specified in the bill. The bill allows for financing by the California Health Facilities Financing Authority.
6. Many issues of concern to the Collaborative are shared by the ARCA Forensic Committee which is also chaired by Carlos Flores. David Riestler will be providing some staff support to the Forensics Committee. Carlos and Mary Lynn Clark, co-chair and director of Inland regional Center recently met with Terri Delgadillo, DDS Director to seek funding for pilot locked forensic treatment programs with an adult setting in the IRC area and a Community Treatment Facility for children in San Diego. Pat Ryan advised that CMHDA also has a Forensic Committee co-chaired by Karen Baylor of San Luis Obispo County and Mark Refowitz of Orange County - and staffed (as a consultant) by Gail Bataille (former mental health director from San Mateo County).
7. The Capitol People First lawsuit is now several years old. Plaintiffs, represented by PAI, contend that the state and the regional centers are ignoring the needs of individuals residing in large (more than 16 beds) public and private institutions. The 21 regional center directors have been ordered to appear in court on 8-21.
8. The Legislature took action in January requiring a freeze on the negotiation of rates by regional centers. Negotiated rates effective July 1, are frozen at the median for like services statewide or regionally, whichever is lower. The impact on the development of numerous dual diagnosis projects in process is unclear at this time.
9. Governor Schwarzenegger and First Lady, Maria Shriver are sponsors of a plan for the employment of 20,000 people with developmental disabilities over the next 3 years. ARCA and DDS are providing staff support for this ambitious project. The Governor is encouraging state agencies to recruit and employ people with developmental disabilities.

Jeanie Thurston will provide the Collaborative with the announcement for an unskilled clerical job classification that is used by some state agencies.

VII. Other:

1. Carlos Flores talked about the Forensic Committee. They are working on finding resources for persons with a DD who are found Incompetent to Stand Trial. They are specifically looking at piloting some locked facilities. Beth suggested they consider a joint meeting with the CMHDA Forensic Committee.
2. Telecare: Sites in Fresno, Alameda and Sacramento have been located for Telecare's fifteen-bed residential treatment settings. The sites will be licensed as Mental Health Rehabilitation Centers (MHRC) and are being developed in partnership with seven regional centers (Alta, Central Valley, Tri-Counties, Kern, San Andreas, Golden Gate, and East Bay). Also, rate negotiations with Alta Regional Center regarding their Sacramento based Assertive Community Treatment Program are nearly complete and this program should begin within sixty days.
3. BHC Sierra Vista Hospital – This Sacramento psychiatric hospital was the subject of a recent Sacramento Bee newspaper article highlighting a history of licensing violations and wrongful death lawsuits. Much, but not all, of this history preceded purchase of the hospital by Psychiatric Solutions, Inc. Psychiatric Solutions hopes to open a twelve-bed locked unit exclusively for regional center clients in Spring, 2009. Creation of this program depends on licensure of forty-eight more hospital beds currently under construction. Media attention is expected to lead to very close monitoring of the care provided. We have spoken with Mark Grip, the hospital's Director of Business Development, who expresses confidence that his company can provide a high-quality program to meet the needs of our clients.
4. Ken Carabello talked about the activities of Liberty Health Care. They are in conversations in Southern California about what kinds of resources might be needed. Ken is the chair of the California Forensic Mental Health Association. He reported that the National Association for the Dually Diagnosed has some books in their catalogue on forensic issues..
5. DDS budget reductions meant the closure of the Delta and Westlake Regional projects in Stockton and Ventura. Those projects were responsible for performing client assessments necessary for consideration for developmental assessment admissions. The remaining projects, located at developmental centers, have taken responsibility for those additional assessments.

VIII. Schedule Next Meeting Time & Place –

Next meeting scheduled for Wednesday, November 5, 2008, 10-2, at the Capitol Plaza Holiday Inn, 300 J Street, Sacramento.