

APPROVED 5-8-07
KING COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING, APRIL 10, 2007
EXCHANGE BUILDING CONFERENCE ROOM 6A

Members Present: Nancy Dow-Witherbee, Lisbeth Eddy, James Nobles, Eleanor Owen, Allan Panitch, Eugene Wan

Members Absent: Ron Sterling (excused), Gwendolyn Williams (excused)

Guest Present: Matthew Wilson, Ombuds

Staff Present: Rhoda Naguit, Jean Robertson

Board Chair Eleanor Owen called to order the King County Mental Health Advisory Board Meeting at 4:30 p.m. She informed the Board that Ron Sterling and Gwendolyn Williams are in Olympia today and asked to be excused. She then asked everyone to introduce themselves.

I. APPROVAL OF MARCH 13, 2007 MEETING MINUTES

Jim Nobles made a motion which was seconded by Nancy Dow-Witherbee to approve the March 13, 2007 meeting minutes as submitted. The motion was approved unanimously.

II. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Board Chair Eleanor Owen discussed two issues of interest. The first one was about the role of the advisory Board and committees. She suggested that when the legislative session is over, the Board should look at the impact of the legislative actions to King County and how to monitor the funding given to King County. The second issue is the impact of the Service Employees International Union's (SEIU) efforts to unionize mental health employees in the mental health system. Eleanor recommended that the Board be on top of this issue.

III. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Legislative Advocacy & Public Affairs Committee – *Jim Nobles*

The committee held a lively interaction on various issues, including legislative updates at yesterday's meeting.

Nominations Update – Nancy Dow-Witherbee

There are no pending applications at this point. A recent applicant who works for the City of Seattle was disqualified because she lives outside of King County.

Nancy encouraged Board members to actively recruit new members on an on-going basis.

Quality Council

ACTION ITEM: Eugene Wan made a motion, which was seconded by Nancy Dow-Witherbee to approve the QC Annual Report as an official document. The motion was approved unanimously.

Nancy Dow-Witherbee made an editorial comment on page 3 of the document under “Goals.” Although she fully accepts the QC report on the status of membership recruitment, she would encourage QC and all other sub-committees to make recruitment an ongoing effort. With the current low Board membership, everyone needs to actively recruit for new Board members.

Recovery Initiatives Committee – Eugene Wan

At the March 27, 2007 meeting of the Recovery Initiatives Committee, the following topics were discussed:

- Self-audit of mental health providers
- Refining Peer Specialist position
- Clubhouse Initiatives Update - MHD will do the certification rather than the ICCD
- MHCADSD has identified \$160,000 funding for recovery trainings. An RFP will be going out soon.
- RIC Webpage update
- Discussed ways and means to acknowledge businesses supporting recovery programs

Criminal Justice Stakeholders Update - Allan Panitch

No report at this time.

IV. STAFF REPORT

A. EQRO Preparation

Jean Robertson said that the Division staff met with the External Quality Review Organization (EQRO) today. This review process is required under the Balanced

Budget Act of 1998. A draft report from the EQRO is due within 30 days from the conclusion of the site visit, and there will be three levels of findings: (1) Requires immediate action; (2) Corrective actions indicated; (3) Recommendations for improvement.

There were 18 items to review this year. The final EQRO report is due at the end of May.

Eleanor asked that draft copy of the report be sent to the members of the Board and Quality Council before it is finalized.

B. Proposed Plan for Implementation of Recovery Incentives

Copies of the proposed plan for the implementation of Recovery Incentives were distributed for review and approval.

Eleanor asked that discussion and action on this issue be tabled until next Board meeting to give Board members additional time to review the document. Meantime, she asked Jean to give a brief overview of the recovery incentives.

C. Federal Grant Block Plan

Copies of the draft FGB plan were distributed. Jean Robertson walked the Board through the document. The Plan described criteria, goal and objective for each program to be funded with FBG revenues. It also contained budget for each program, an estimated number of clients served, a brief description of the program, and anticipated quantifiable outcomes. This year's plan included a tribal program as required by the State. The county proposes to fund a tribal youth suicide prevention program.

A question was asked whether the three RSN proposed funded programs - Children's Crisis Outreach & Engagement, Crisis Telephone Line, and Geriatric Crisis Services should continue to receive FBG funds in the future. There was a suggestion for the Board to consider new and innovative programs and discuss potential changes in future years in response to the President's Blue Ribbon Commission and the Federal Transformation Grant. Some Board members expressed support for the three programs currently funded because they believe the programs are integral to the overall service continuum and are vital resources that should not be reduced. In addition, staff explained that the goals for each of the proposed programs promote resiliency, seeks to provide resources that address an emergent crisis such that a person is assisted to remain in the community, receive support to assist them to stabilize, and provide referrals for longer term services when indicated. In order to move funds to a new program these programs would need to have funding reduced. There was an inquiry about use of FBG funding for a crisis diversion program. FBG has some restrictions on

where funding could be used and we would not be able to FBG for capital expenditures or to provide services for persons who are covered by Medicaid. The Board Chair requested that the Board be included in future discussions prior to decisions being made regarding utilization of FBG funds in order to advocate allocation of a portion of said funds for potential new Recovery and/or Employment proposals. This recommendation was made to assist KC RSN in maintaining focus on transforming the Mental Health System. There was also a request to provide the Board a copy of the draft FBG plan ahead of time to give the Board a chance to review the document in more in depth manner. [Note: The draft plan was sent out prior to the meeting via email.]

ACTION ITEM: There being no further comments, input and questions, Jim Nobles made a motion, which was seconded by Lisbeth Eddy to support the plan for this coming year. The motion was passed unanimously.

VI. LIAISON REPORTS

Eleanor Owen, *Western State Hospital*

WSH has begun to implement a new program whereby patients from each ward will be assessed regarding their level of functioning. These patients will then be "grouped" together for special activities depending upon their various levels. The plan is to provide specific activities that are geared to appropriate activity levels. It is hoped that this will facilitate earlier transitions for some and for more appropriate intensive care for others. The activities will take place in areas of the hospital other than the patients' "home" wards.

Gwendolyn Williams, *Therapeutic Health Services*

Not present to report.

Jim Nobles, *District Mental Health Court*

No report.

Eugene Wan, *Community Psychiatric Center*

No report at this time. Eugene is scheduled to meet with CPC Staff Nick Codd.

Allan Panitch, *Children's Home*

No report at this time; has not connected with the Director to date.

Nancy Dow-Witherbee, Harborview and Highline-West Seattle Mental Health

Perry Wein contacted Harborview to explore an option to get agencies with existing employment staff to join forces in providing part time/temporary services to other agencies rather than each program having a dedicated employment FTE. Nancy is encouraged that the recovery theories from the Recovery Committee were quickly becoming integrated into planning.

Lisbeth Eddy – Seattle Mental Health Court

Seattle Mental Health Court is doing great. Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission is looking at implementing CIT training statewide. This issue will be discussed at the April 20th meeting.

Eugene Wan informed Lis Eddy as Board Liaison to Seattle Mental Health Court about a concern raised by a Recovery Initiatives Committee attendee that those involved with the Mental Health Court system were either unaware or resisting recent efforts by the County to promote recovery and self-reliance among those with a diagnosis. The attendee would like to raise awareness among legal professionals of recent self-reliance and recovery initiatives.

Nancy Dow-Witherbee has expressed interest to be Lis Eddy's backup as Board Liaison for Seattle Mental Health Court.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:05pm.

Prepared by:

Attested by:

Rhoda A. Naguit
Recording Secretary

Eleanor Owen
Board Chair