

NOTES FROM MH WORKGROUP MEETING
Tuesday, March 11, 2003

Recorded by Leslie Weisman, LCSW
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Welcome and Introductions were made.

Updates since last MH Workgroup Meeting - The group was updated on the Steering Committee meeting of 2/20/03. At that meeting there were updates regarding the Commissioner's Guidance on the Reinvestment Initiative. The Structural and MH Workgroups gave updates on the work they were doing. Jim Thur distributed the Draft Vision statement and Draft Guiding Principles and Objectives for the Regional Partnership. Discussion around above issues. Henriette Kellum gave a report at the Steering Committee meeting on issues related to the geriatric mental health population, particularly regarding hospitalization. Sharon Eckleberry, Gail Sullivan and Mary Ann Beall gave a presentation on the Recovery Model which is being incorporated into Adult Services in Fairfax County. This model will be incorporated into any restructuring efforts which take place in our region. John Morrow reviewed plans for the upcoming Listening Sessions including a discussion guide and questions to guide the forum.

There was a DAD Coordinating Committee meeting on 2/13/03. At this meeting the group looked in detail at each CSB's social detox and crisis care facilities. We looked at unmet needs in terms of existence of such programs and clinical capacity to handle challenging clients. Staff from NVMHI was present to discuss their draft document on Levels of Inpatient Treatment at NVMHI. The purpose of this discussion was to look at the methods utilized at NVMHI to manage clinically challenging clients. This model could then be used in future discussions with the private hospitals in the context of increasing acute admissions at private hospitals.

Updates from Jim Thur, Lynn DeLacy and John Morrow – Jim Thur requested any feedback regarding the reinvestment project and our work thus far to be submitted to him by 3/14/03 in order that he can bring the feedback to Richmond on 3/17/03. Members of the MH Workgroup were encouraged to email their feedback to Jim or Lynn. Sharon Jones suggested that the documents include language which reflects a focus on the Recovery Model.

Jim Thur assured the group that there will be the additional dollars available for private bed purchase for FY03 and FY04. He did stress that a focus on substance abuse services, e.g. medical detox, be given consideration as an option for these dollars. Jim also discussed the need to partner with the private hospitals as much as possible. The meeting with the private hospitals will likely be scheduled for the end of March. It was suggested that a member of the DAD committee join that meeting. This suggestion was welcomed by Jim. The focus of the meeting will be expanded to include discussion of upcoming contracts with the hospitals, state budget issues, and private bed purchase concerns.

John Morrow discussed the upcoming Community Forums/Listening Sessions. Fairfax County will hold two meetings, one in Reston on March 18 and the other in South County (?) on March 27. Alexandria will hold their meeting on April 3, Loudoun on April 10, Arlington on March 19, and Prince William on April 1. PRS will host a focus group specifically for consumers.

Two documents from Richmond were briefly discussed. The first, "Draft Guidance for the Regional Reinvestment Initiative Implementation Plans," dated 3/6/03 pertains to those HPRs that are involved in immediate hospital bed closings. The second document, "Draft Guidance for the Completion of Regional Partnership Planning Process," also dated 3/6/03 is more relevant to our region. This document outlines the expectations of the seven Regional Partnerships, including the need for "broad citizen input." This document also asks for every region to define their needs and prioritize them. We are well underway with this process.

Review of data from DAD meeting – as mentioned above, there was discussion around social detox and crisis care facilities in Northern Virginia and what is needed to "amp up" services at these facilities. Brainstorming will continue at the next DAD meeting.

A lengthy discussion ensued around the Institute's document on Levels of Inpatient Treatment. This document outlines Patient Profiles, Interventions and Expected Outcomes for four levels of care at NVMHI. The staff that worked on this document will refine it further and bring it to the Steering Committee meeting on 3/20. It was suggested that the Institute staff check with their UM staff around the managed care language that would reflect the levels of care described in their document. It was also brought up that there may not be language in the contracts with private hospitals that specifically spells out the need to provide acute stabilization services. This will be explored further.

Lou Rosato presented data on private bed purchase number for the past year. There was very low usage October through December 2002. Use increased dramatically in February and into March. Lou has not found any discernible pattern to these trends in usage. Consumers continue to present with very challenging clinical profiles and medical or substance co morbidity. Many private hospitals are unwilling to accept such patients, even those who have commercial insurance. There was some discussion around all acute admissions beginning at private hospitals and then transferring, if necessary, to the state hospital.

Wrap Up – Next Steps – The DAD Coordinating Committee will meet on 3/13/03 to continue to discuss the issues brought up today. The Steering Committee will next meet on March 20. A final version of the Regional Partnership Report is due to Central Office on August 1, 2003.

Next meeting of MH Workgroup tentatively scheduled for 4/1/03 at Fairfax County Government Center, room to be announced, 12:30 – 3:30pm. Final details on this meeting will be sent to the Workgroup as soon as possible.

Meeting adjourned.