

**Meeting Minutes of
The Governor's Council on Behavioral Health
8:30 A.M., Thursday, April 12, 2007**

The Governor's Council on Behavioral Health met at 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, April 12, 2007, in Barry Hall's Conference Room 126, 14 Harrington Road, Cranston, Rhode Island.

Members Present: Richard Leclerc, Chair; Kai Cameron; Elizabeth Earls; Scotti DiDanato; James Gillen; Mitch Henderson; Richard Hill; Peter Mendoza; Noreen Shawcross; Neil Corkery; Reed Cosper; Martha Iachetta; and Representative Bruce Long.

Ex-Officio

Members Present: Craig Stenning, Department of Mental Health, Retardation and Hospitals (MHRH); Jeanne Smith, Colleen Carone, Carol Fox and Sandy Woods, Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF); Fred Friedman, Department of Corrections (DOC); Paula Parker, Department of Elderly Affairs; and Michele Palermo, Department of Education.

Guests: Jill Beckwith, RI Kids Count.

Staff: Corinna Roy, Charles Williams, Kristen Quinlan, and Mary Ann Nassa.

Once a quorum was established, the Chair, Richard Leclerc, called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. After introductions were conducted, Richard entertained a motion to accept the Minutes of March 13, 2007. Representative Bruce Long motioned to accept the minutes with the following change to Page 4, Paragraph 7: "Representative Long suggested that copies of the letters be sent to all the Members (not aides) of the House and Senate." Liz Earls seconded the motion. All were in favor, and the minutes were approved as amended.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DATA ELEMENTS SUBCOMMITTEE

Mitch Henderson reported that the subcommittee is in the process of designing a model score card for presentation at the next Governor's Council Meeting. Mitch summarized the categories of information as data that describes numbers being served; costs of services; performance in areas of access, safety and quality of effectiveness and efficiency; and feedback to services. Kristen Quinlan will e-mail Council members with the next subcommittee meeting date and time.

UPDATES FROM MHRH

Craig Stenning announced that a workshop on Cultural Competency was being conducted at the Arnold Conference Center for licensed supervisors within the Behavioral Healthcare network. Craig spoke about the importance of cultural competency within Behavioral Health at both the Federal and State levels in order to insure that cultural diversity is addressed within the populations served and within the staff that is utilized.

Craig reported that the second of two budget hearings for MHRH was held on Wednesday, April, 11, 2007. He stated that this hearing was a special hearing called by the Chairman of the Finance Committee, Representative Costantino and Representative Thomas Slater. Craig stated that the hearing gave the Committee the opportunity to hear testimony from actual participants in the system who were requesting that services not be cut from the budget. Craig stated that their major concern was around the proposed three-percent reduction attached to Buyrite which is a statewide initiative.

Craig reported that in approximately two weeks Rhode Island, along with several other states, will be participating in a National Disaster Preparation Drill, which is the only Federal hurricane drill that will

take place this year. Rhode Island will house the drill and will host approximately 200 Federal guests who will be participating in the drill. A full drill will be performed at the level of the Division of Behavioral Health, and community partners have been invited to participate. It begins on April 30th when the National Weather Bureau will give notification that there is a potential level two or three hurricane that would be making landfall on Thursday and Friday morning following April 30th. Staff will be working that entire weekend in preparation. Craig stated that in most cases it will be a virtual drill, but actual events will be involved both in Providence and Newport during the exercise.

Craig reported that Chairman Costantino of the House Finance Committee expressed concern over the delay of the signing of the contract to combine acute psychiatric inpatient care with medical substance abuse detoxification. Craig stated that Director Nelson explained her reasons for the delay at the hearing. He stated that there have been a couple of meetings in the past two weeks and several are scheduled within the next week to resolve the questions raised by the Director and her Chief of Staff. He looks forward to an acceptable resolution by next week.

Craig reported that the Department of MHRH is participating in the planning to receive the individuals in DCYF's proposal involving children between the ages of 18 and 21. MHRH staff has reviewed, on a case-by-case basis, over 225 cases as an initial step to determine whether or not those kids would be eligible under the current eligibility definitions for mental health, substance abuse, or developmental disability services. Craig stated that the initial review has been completed, but that new referrals continue to be reviewed. Craig commended the staff at MHRH, DCYF and DHS for an incredible job well done in a collaborative effort. He mentioned that work continues towards a resolution on how to fulfill the needs for a number of kids who are currently receiving services through DCYF and will not qualify for some services within MHRH programs.

Craig also reported that discussions continue with partners at the Department of Corrections (DOC) to examine how to assist with plans to reduce the population or to at least level off the increase in DOC's population.

Finally, Craig reported that the Division is reviewing a Request for Proposals from SAMHSA for funding a new round of applications for the "Access to Recovery" program, which is the administration's program to expand treatment in the United States especially through those agencies that have not been previously involved in providing treatment services as well as faith-based organizations through the use of vouchers. Craig stated that Rhode Island will apply and will focus on both the juvenile and adult correctional populations either through diversion or for individuals coming out of those systems. He stated that there will be 18 awards.

DCYF EVALUATION AND DATA

Colleen Caron who works with program planning and evaluation and data analysis on quality assurance for DCYF distributed a copy of the *Power Point presentation (See Attachment I)*. Colleen reviewed the presentation. Colleen stated that the presentation is a description of the families and children served by DCYF; a look at the growth in that population from Fiscal Year 2005 to Fiscal Year 2006; and a descriptions of where that growth occurred in terms of age groups, race/ethnicity as well as placement settings – i.e., in home, foster care or residential placement services; and numbers served on a regular basis in each of those contracted programs.

Notable Changes from 2005 to 2006:

- 10 percent increase in overall population from 2005 to 2006

- Largest increase was 13 percent in the in-home and 14 percent in the foster care compared to 4.3 percent in residential (group homes, shelters in residential settings). All three settings include probation.
- Age group: Larger proportions are ages 0 to 5 and 12 to 15.
- Larger growth occurred between ages 0 to 5 and 6 to 11.
- 10 percent increase among Hispanic population and 8 percent increase among non-Hispanic population.

- Total population in the Training School is 1,122. Out of that total 895 is detention and 227 are adjudicated.
- Training School Population by race for 2006: The largest two groups are white and black African Americans.
- Primary growth in age groups was 0 to 5 and 6 to 11, with the smallest increase in the 16 to 18 age group.
- Primary growth in terms of race occurred in black African Americans, multi-racial and white.

- DCYF divided into four regions:
 - Region 1 -- Providence
 - Region 2 – East Bay
 - Region 3 – Warwick south and southwest
 - Region 4 – Cranston North to Massachusetts boarder - is the largest in terms of number of youth served.
 - Cases are assigned based on the mother's address.

- Contracted Programs for Fiscal Year 2005 were: Comprehensive Emergency Services (CES) Family Preservation Program, Early Start, Youth Diversionary Program, Outreach and Tracking, Residential, Shelters, Specialized Foster Care, Crisis Intensive Services (CIS), and CASSP.
- Total served under CES were 2,538.
- Waiting Lists and services that need to be enhance: Substance abuse treatment for parents; Caregiver/child psychiatric assessment; the child psychiatric assessment as well as the caregiver's psychiatric assessment.

Colleen stated that this presentation is an overview of DCYF and its total population. She stated that if more detailed data is requested, she can provide it at another meeting. Any questions regarding the presentation should be e-mailed to Corinna Roy at croy@mhrh.ri.gov who will forward a compiled list to Colleen for response.

Mitch Henderson asked if there were any results from the data that leads to why there was an increase of 10 percent from year to year. Colleen stated that it's a combination of multiple factors such as the increase in poverty and housing issues. In addition there has been an increase in the State population in the 0-5 age group, and an increase in children in families with behavioral health issues.

UPDATES FROM DCYF

Sandy Woods reported that as a follow up to the subject of access to services, DCYF continues to meet with representatives from the five prime outpatient substance abuse contractors and have been

streamlining the referral process and developing more communication. Peter Mendoza reported that they are in the final stages of developing a single form for access for DCYF contractors to use.

Charles added that the Access to Recovery grant mentioned earlier by Craig Stenning, also includes parents of children who are in the care of DCYF as a result of parental substance use.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Corinna Roy distributed two letters sent by the Council to Governor Carcieri (*See Attachment II and Attachment II*) in response to two approved motions made at the last Council meeting. Richard stated that the two letters were approved communication to the Governor and General Assembly at the last meeting expressing the Council's concerns and asking that the cuts slated for MHRH, DCYF and the Office of Homelessness be reversed, and another letter specifically on the considered reallocation of the Medicaid dollars from DHS to MHRH for inpatient psychiatric care.

Corinna Roy also distributed a letter of support from the Council to Director Ellen Nelson regarding the Mental Health Data Infrastructure grant. Corinna motioned that the Council approved the resolution to submit a letter of support for the grant. Neil Corkery seconded the motion, and Peter Mendoza seconded the motion. All were in favor, and motion was carried.

Richard announced that the Rhode Island Quality Institute has purchased a web-based informational system resource for consumers from Trilogy Network of Care and will be known as the Rhode Island Network of Care. It will be tailored to meet Rhode Island's needs. This particular module is for Behavioral Healthcare Services, Mental Health and Substance Abuse and has three components. One is a resource library containing links and access to thirty thousand plus recent articles on evidence-based practices, the best care and treatment, medications and resources throughout the country. In addition, it can become a resource library for resources within Rhode Island; therefore, it will be linked directly to "Ask Rhody." It is planned to be launched some time in June. Lastly, an individual will be able to set up their own personal health record.

Richard added that Blue Cross and Blue Shield has provided \$100,000 worth of funding; the Rhode Island Health and Educational Building Corporation \$50,000; and the Rhode Island Council of CMHO's, The Providence Center, Butler Hospital, and Gateway Northern Rhode Island have also contributed; creating a pool of several hundred thousand dollars. The purchase of the program is \$60,000 with an annual maintenance fee in the \$30,000 range. There is funding for two years, and Richard is hopeful that more money can be raised for ongoing maintenance. Richard stated that the Trilogy has three other modules which are: elder care, domestic abuse, and one on child and family; they are also piloting one on the Veterans Administration (VA) of Rhode Island. Richard requested the submission of any mailing lists that would be interested in the above information by contacting him at rlleclerc@gatewayhealth.org.

Corinna Roy stated that the Department annually re-submits Projects for Assistance in the Transition for Homelessness (PATH) grant by asking the Council to write a letter of support approving the grant. Corinna stated that this year there will be a re-RFP of grant dollars, approximately \$300,000, to help individuals who are seriously mentally ill and homeless connect to services. She wanted it noted that while the Council has not been asked to review these documents that its members have been informed of the process and will be updated as it progresses.

Jill Beckwith announced the publication of the 2007 Rhode Island Kids Count Factbook and distributed an order form (*See Attachment IV*) for \$20 plus sales tax or available free via their website as a PDF file at www.rikidscount.org

Scotti DiDanoto announced that the kick off for “May is Mental Health Month” commences with activities on May 1 at 1:00 p.m. at the State House in the State Room.

Charles Williams announced that April is “Alcohol Awareness Month,” and that Governor Carcieri issued an Alcohol Awareness Month proclamation; there will be a press release coming out from MHRH about it. This is the first year since 2004 that the Governor has made such a proclamation.

Noreen Shawcross announced that the Welcome Arnold shelter has closed and the replacement programs are running smoothly. There was a small group of women that have been difficult to stabilize creating a number of women who end up at Crossroads overnight. Noreen stated that there are enough placements for the men. They originally anticipated enough placements for women, but there are a growing number of women who are presenting at homeless service providers.

Noreen reported that the new case managers are filling out a behavioral health tracking sheet on referrals and the outcomes to the referrals for the purpose to be able to present to MHRH and the Council a profile of the folks who have been long-term homeless and what our ability is to connect them to behavioral health services.

Richard stated that a few months prior John Young from DHS offered to make a presentation on some of the developments at DHS on the managed care aspect for individuals with disabilities on Medicaid. Richard will be scheduling him to present that information to the Council at the May or June meeting prior to a July 1 implementation date.

Jim Gillen announced that Rhode Island Cares will be hosting a legislative day on Wednesday, June 6 at the State House around 2 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING

There was no further business. Upon motion made and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 9:55 a.m. The next meeting of the Council is scheduled for **Tuesday, May 8, at 1:00 p.m. in the first floor Conference Room 126 at the Barry Hall Building.**

Minutes respectfully recorded and written by:

Mary Ann Nassa
Secretary, Governor’s Council on Behavioral Health

- Attachment I: DCYF Power Point presentation.***
- Attachment II: Letter to Governor Carcieri regarding cuts to MHRH, DCYF and Office of Homelessness and Emergency Assistance.***
- Attachment III: Letter to Governor Carcieri with cc’s to House & Senate regarding shifting funding responsibility for Medicaid dollars from DHS to MHRH in 2008.***
- Attachment IV: 2007 Rhode Island Kids Count Factbook order form.***