

**CUYAHOGA COUNTY COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH BOARD  
PROGRAM PLANNING & POLICY COMMITTEE  
November 12, 2003**

The Program Planning & Policy Committee meeting was called to order at 12:00 p.m. by Acting Chair, John Bazyk.

**Committee Members Present:** John Bazyk, Bonnie Caplan, Mieko Smith

Absent: David Blank, Ben Gohlstin, Ann Hull, Ella Patterson, Mary Warr

**Other Governors Present:** Eugenia Cash, Bill Sheehan

**Board Staff:** William M. Denihan, Chief Executive Officer; Valeria Harper-Bledsoe, Chief Operating Officer; Dr. Kathryn Burns, Chief Clinical Officer, Cassandra Richardson, Chief Financial Officer; Rose Fini, Contract/Risk Manager; Scott Osiecki, Director of External Affairs, Terry Lester, Adult Project Administrator; Lois Anderson, Employment Specialist; Michael Doud, Residential Project Administrator.

**1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Due to the lack of a quorum, the approval of the 4/9/03, 7/9/03, and 9/10/03 minutes shall be tabled to next month's Program Planning & Policy Committee meeting.

**2. SUBSTANCE ABUSE/MENTALLY ILL (SAMI) PLAN**

Ms. Lester, Adult Project Administrator, reported on the collaborative activities of the Cuyahoga County Community Mental Health Board (CCCMHB) and the Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services Board of Cuyahoga County (ADASBCC) to improve services for the substance abusing/mentally ill (SAMI) population. The initial strategy of the SAMI Plan was to focus on enhancing service delivery to SAMI consumers served by Recovery Resources, Bridgeway, Inc. and North East Ohio Health Services—agencies funded by both Boards.

A review team composed of staff from each Board visited each of the agencies listed above to review documentation to determine if integrated treatment was provided, whether duplicative documentation existed, etc. Ms. Lester highlighted site visit observations as outlined in the 11/12/03 agenda process sheet distributed.

Ms. Caplan inquired about the possible integration of the CWRU Center for Excellence in present collaborative efforts. As a member of the NE regional committee of the Center for Excellence, Ms. Lester noted that she has linked interested individuals to available trainings.

**ACTIONS:**

1. Invite representative/s from the Center for Excellence to the January 2004 PP&P Committee meeting to briefly present information about the types of support available from the Center.
2. Provide an update on the Flores Home at January meeting.
3. Next SAMI Plan Update scheduled for March 2004.

**3. TICKET TO WORK PROGRAM**

Ms. Lois Anderson, Employment Specialist, reported that the Ticket to Work & Work Incentives Act, signed into law in December 1999, was designed to bring positive changes to the lives of individuals with disabilities. Implementation began in 2001; the Ohio Ticket to Work Program roll-out is currently underway. The power point handout included in the agenda packet was presented by Deborah Barris, Executive Director of the Employment Alliance, to the Adult Consumer Advisory Council last month.

Persons eligible for Ticket to Work are those receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI), are 18-64 years old and meet medical improvement criteria.

As long as persons are in the "ticket to work program" and participating in provider support and trainings, they are protected from continuing disability reviews. Discussion followed on the importance of establishing Medicaid Buy-In for Ohioans.

Ms. Kathy Kazol suggested providing technical assistance to Consumer Operated Drop-In Centers to enable them to become an Employee Network Provider. Subsequently, dollars received from the program for employing consumers could be used to pay for consumer's benefits.

Ms. Bledsoe noted that she would follow-up on this suggestion. Discussion followed; Ms. Barris added that insurance coverage dictates that employees must work over 30 hours per week in order to qualify for insurance coverage.

Ms. Bledsoe noted that other information provided answered follow-up questions from the previous meeting: 1) Employment Alliance FY03 Data, 2) Career Advantage Report and 3) Employment Alliance Newsletter.

**ACTION:** RE: FY03 Employment Alliance Data, Chief Denihan suggested adding data from the last 2-3 years regarding the number of consumers served, how many received jobs, the average wages earned, hours of work, breakdown of types of work, etc.

#### **4. POLICY REVIEW**

Ms. Rose Fini, Contract/Risk Manager, reported that both internal Board staff and the Policy Subcommittee reviewed the following policies. Ms. Fini identified the various revisions to both policies.

- **Prioritization of Mental Health Services and Resources**

Significant changes include:

- 1) Policy includes updated code sections with definitions for a “person with serious emotional disturbance” and “person with severe mental disability”.
- 2) Various tools are referenced for deliberations on planning and funding decisions.
- 3) More clearly incorporating the concept of recovery in the third paragraph.

**ACTION:** Based the discussion around additional clarity for types of services referenced, Ms. Fini will work with Policy Subcommittee members to add the appropriate language.

[Dr. Mieke Smith arrived.]

- **Request for Proposal for Mental Health Services** (title of existing policy)

Significant changes:

- 1) Renamed Policy – “Awarding Contracts for Mental Health Services”
- 2) Expand policy process to include RFP (Request for Proposal) and RFQ (Request for Qualifications).
- 3) Cultural competency reference was removed since cultural competency is an over-reaching policy of the CCCMHB which addresses each policy.
- 4) One Board of Governor shall be appointed to serve on the CCCMHB staff committee to prepare, issue and review the contract award process.

Discussion followed on the conceptual issues involved with the RFQ process. Ms. Caplan voiced a concern about the implied requirement that an RFP must follow the RFQ. Ms. Fini noted that a revision can be made to the policy incorporating more flexibility.

#### **5. SAMHSA KICK-OFF**

Mr. Scott Osiecki, Director of External Affairs, reported that he has been working closely with the office of Congresswoman Stephanie Tubbs-Jones, Board of County Commissioners, Family and Children First Council, Chairperson Bonita Caplan, and C.E.O., William Denihan and Board staff, to plan the announcement of the \$9.5 million SAMHSA award to assist families in need of children’s mental health services in Cuyahoga County.

The event will be held at WSEM’s Reinberger Auditorium on Monday, 11/17/03. The continental breakfast starts at 9:15 a.m. with the program starting at 10:00 a.m. A media advisory will be issued from Congresswoman Stephanie Tubbs-Jones office to a combined media list. News releases will be issued on the day of the event.

**6. FAMILY CAREGIVERS ADJUSTMENT**

This item was pulled from the agenda.

**7. OLD BUSINESS**

- **Housing Plan Update**

Mr. Michael Doud, Residential Project Administrator, noted that the second draft version of the Housing Plan incorporated feedback from the Board of Governors. Since last month's Planning meeting, two meetings have been held. The Housing Advisory Committee was formed and consists of 25 individuals. The first meeting is scheduled for 11/25/03.

Ms. Bledsoe noted that the Housing Plan was shared with members of the Adult Advisory Council. Additionally several mental health consumers have indicated their interest in serving on the Housing Advisory Committee.

**ACTION:** Due to the absence of a quorum, the Housing Plan Draft will be forwarded on to the Executive Committee for its approval consideration and recommendation to the full Board.

- **ODMH Grant for Housing & Employment**

Mr. Doud reported that the CCCMHB recently received notice of an ODMH award for \$30,000 which links housing services and employment. The proposal targets individuals in EDEN's housing (both permanent and subsidized housing). The Employment Alliance will coordinate the hiring of consumers on a contractual basis. Work incentives will be provided for consumers who attain and retain jobs.

**8. NEW BUSINESS**

- Ms. Bledsoe reported that some time ago EDEN, Inc. received a Housing and Urban Development award for \$45,000 which will be assigned to a Payne Avenue location for 16 single room occupants. Previous discussions addressed the \$15,000 local match needed from the CCCMHB. The Board is ready to allocate dollars to EDEN, Inc.

**ACTION:** Forward this issue to the Executive Committee for its consideration and potential recommendation to the full Board.

**There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:25 p.m.**

**Submitted by: Carol Krajewski, Executive Specialist to the Board of Governors**

**Approved by: John Bazyk, Acting Chair, Program Planning & Policy Committee**