



Rolling Hills

Community Services Region

Buena Vista * Calhoun * Carroll * Cherokee * Crawford * Ida * Sac

April 9, 2015

3:00 pm

Sac County West Annex

Advisory Board Minutes

- 1. Call to Order – Patrick Schmitz, Chair**
- 2. Introductions – Those in attendance: Pam Haberl, parent; Patrick Schmitz, Plains Area Mental Health Center; Lisa Bringle/Louise Galbraith /Dawn Mentzer, RHCS Region; Rhonda Mart, New Hope Village; Sandy Pingel, Genesis Development; Calvin Carver, Cherokee County Work Services; Pat Laursen, Howard Center; Rick Hecht, Governance Board Chairman**

- 3. Advisory Board Membership – Sac County Representative/Two Cherokee County Representatives**

Tracy Jepson, parent was appointed to the Advisory Board to fill a Sac County vacancy. Cindy Lauritsen, consumer and Calvin Carver, Cherokee County Work Services Director were appointed as representatives from Cherokee County.

- 4. FY'16 Annual Service and Budget Plan**

Dawn Mentzer provided an overview of the funding strategy for next year. The region had to identify new services that will be developed in FY'16 and determine costs. The projected budget for the crisis stabilization home is approximately \$600,000. The region is in the process of developing a jail diversion program which will be initially piloted in Crawford County although no additional costs are anticipated at this time. Total budget for the Region in FY'16 is \$3,452,691. Once DHS approves the plan it will be uploaded to the RHCS website.

- 5. ID Waiver Waiting List Workgroup Recommendation**

At the February Governance Board Meeting, the Board took action to deny regional funding for persons on the ID Waiver waiting list, based on two attorney opinions. Dennis Busch

(Governance Board member) and others were concerned that there may be people who need services to cover health and safety needs. A motion was made and passed by the Governance Board to designate a committee to draft a proposal of services that may need to be funded by the Region for those on a waiting list. The committee met on March 31, 2015 and Dawn provided a copy of the recommendation that will be presented to the Governance Board next week. Services that may be considered for funding are: Daily SCL, Hourly SCL, Pre-Vocational services, Day Habilitation, and Transportation. Persons must be in high need and the services are to meet safety, health and basic needs.

Discussion/concerns: the recommendation states “three months at a time” and “up to three months” the wording should be consistent. If authorized for three months, what happens if the person is not re-authorized for funding? Dawn will define further the difference of authorizing time limits for various services. Rick Hecht brought concerns from the Governance Board, one being funding and the basis that the State made a commitment to fund the services and retained the dollars and are not honoring that by starting the waiting list. There is a concern of litigation for not funding core services, or picking and choosing who will be funded.

6. Task Force Updates

a. Calhoun County

Patrick Schmitz reported: Met on March 26, 2015. Counseling Services is providing therapy services in Rockwell City one full day per week. The nurse practitioner that was going to fill the need in Calhoun County (through Plains Area Mental Health Center) has resigned so it will delay the implementation of psychiatric services. Have discussed transition services from child to adult services.

b. Peer/Family Support – Karen Whiteing, Kim Keleher

Dawn Mentzer reported: Met in March, working on training in the Region for Peer Support Specialists and Mental Health First Aide. The Denison drop in center, The Den, has opened and is doing well. The Carroll Clubhouse has moved to a new location and is very active. The Calhoun County Public Health employees reported on the Family to Family program at the last task force meeting. Family to Family training was completed by two Calhoun County Public Health employees and they have started their first group that is meeting in Calhoun County. They are willing to expand and start another group in the Region, possibly in the western area in the fall.

c. Jail Diversion –

Dawn Mentzer reported: Task Force has been meeting on a monthly basis. Decision of the group has been made to start with a pilot program in Crawford County. We are seeking buy-in from the Sac County Magistrate to start in Sac in Calhoun counties soon. Currently working on policy and

procedures, a brochure and other related documents. Coordinators will be working with the jails for assessments and development of an aftercare plan.

d. Crisis Stabilization

Dawn Mentzer reported: Task Force has been meeting regularly, and has created a vision and recommendation of what they want the service to be: A home like atmosphere, availability to expand bed space and into other geographic areas, availability to provide psychiatric care, and provider stability. A sub-committee was appointed to look at the two proposals that were submitted to the Region. That committee met last week and have a recommendation that will be shared at the Governance Board meeting next week. Plains Area Mental Health Center and Mallard View were the two providers who submitted proposals. Melissa Drey is continuing to look at other crisis homes and intervention programs. Roger Davis and Melissa are going to suicide assessment training next week and will be able to train people once they complete their training.

e. Commitment Pre-Screens

Patrick Schmitz reported: The purpose/goal is to intervene before a commitment is processed to avoid the committal proceedings if possible. Carroll County has been identified as a pilot county and both magistrates are willing to follow the protocol. Patrick and Melissa Drey met with St Anthony Hospital and the hospital did not think there was a problem. St Anthony is going to give data for inpatient and ER on commitments and voluntary admissions (to their hospital or if transferred to another hospital); once data is received they will meet again with the magistrates in Carroll.

7. Other Discussion

Rhonda Mart questioned the future of Work Activity funding and whether the Region would assist providers in transitioning to the new HCBS Quality Standards.

Dawn Mentzer stated that Work Activity is in next year's budget but will be moving away from it by July 2016. Currently, four vocational providers are seeking regional funding for an employment proposal in an effort to transition individuals into community employment. The Region may assist providers with efforts towards community based services and those requests can be made to the Governance Board to help with transition.

Rhonda also questioned whether the Region is funding RCF's. Funding is currently for 3 months stabilization or two months if the person does not have Medicaid or funds to pay client participation.

Date and time of next meeting:

July 9th at 3:00 pm at the Sac County Annex

Minutes recorded by Louise Galbraith

