



**JIM GIBBONS**  
Governor

**Chair:** Lesley Dickson, MD

**Vice-Chair:** Larry Ashley, PhD

**Governor's  
Committee on Co-Occurring Disorders  
(SB 2)**

**Minutes**

**Date and Time of Meeting:** Monday, March 15, 2010 at 2:00pm

**Attendance:** Larry Ashley, Richard Baldo, Judy Bousquet, Harold Cook, Lesley Dickson, Nancy Domiano-Sader, Judge Jennifer Elliott, Kathy Eppen, Stuart Ghertner, Ron Lawrence, Mel Pohl, David Sonner, An-Pyng Sun and Donna Wilburn.

Absent: Elena Brady.

Invited Guests: Dr. Keith Courtney, Dr. Roy Hookham, Dr. Linda Hermann, Steve Roll, Fritz Reese, and Jack Martin.

Public: Staff and clients of Community Counseling, Bridges, IOP, WestCare and Solutions.

**Minutes:** The minutes of the December 16, 2009 meeting were approved.

**Presentations:**

Dr. Keith Courtney, Psychiatrist at CCDC, reported that on this day there are approximately 3100 inmates with about 600 on psychiatric medications. The psychiatric staff consists of Dr. Courtney, 3 APN's and several psychiatric nurses and they need more staff. There are no actual COD services, mental illness and substance abuse are treated separately and CCDC functions primarily like a psychiatric emergency room. He described one of the greatest needs as needing rapid access to services on release of the individual into the community to prevent return to drug abuse and non-violent crime. Presently there is just Dr. Courtney and a social worker to do discharge planning. Individuals are referred to Drug Court which has about 500 places and Mental Health Court has 100 spaces and there is a need for many more spaces. About 150 to 200 are released daily and about 1/3 are homeless. While they have services that range from AA meetings up to inpatient psychiatric care, sudden releases can make it difficult to make good discharge plans. Dr. Courtney suggested looking at states which have mandatory outpatient treatment as a potential legislative goal.

Dr. Roy Hookham and Dr. Linda Hermann, Psychologists with the Department of Corrections (DOC) reported that there are 12,584 inmates in the system with about 15% with mental illness and 70% with substance use histories. This translates into 8,000 to 9,000 but not clear how many would have a diagnosis. Casa Grande with 30 beds provides a transitional program. There are problems with not enough staffing in that they get 15 to 20 new inmates daily and they attempt to determine immediately if the inmate has a mental health or a co-occurring disorder. On staff are psychologists, social workers, MH counselors and SA counselors and the inmate can petition for services. There is no one person designated to treat those with COD. They offer Psychoeducational groups, monitoring and specialty groups. Dr. Hermann described the plan to institute three levels of care followed by 7 months of aftercare in addition to an IPO for 200 hours which will be dual diagnosis capable. Problems identified are obtaining medications on discharge since Medicaid stops when they are incarcerated and a need for more "coerced treatment" to decrease recidivism. She also described some licensing difficulties with LADC's not able to treat those with MH issues and that there are not enough counselors with competencies in both fields and therefore there is a need to find funding to hire those dually trained or make training available.

Steve Roll of the Clark County Specialty Courts of the 8<sup>th</sup> Judicial Courts in Clark County reported on their main goal which is to keep folks out of the DOC. The courts include the Criminal Drug Court, Parents Delinquent in Child Support and with SA, Dependency Court for those who have committed child abuse and with SA, Dependent Mothers which has a federal grant, Juvenile Drug Court, Justice Court for misdemeanors, Prison re-entry, 3 DUI courts and Mental Health Court for those with an Axis I Disorder and 5 contacts with Criminal Justice. They serve 1200 to 1500 folks. They have a 3 year SAMSHA grant for inpatient beds but most of their funds come from the State with the funds originally from county collections. The treatment is provided by Choices, Bridge Counseling, Cornerstone, Pathways and New Beginnings. He reported the program could benefit from pre-plea assessment in addition to post-plea and having individuals such as LCSW's and LDAC's in the jails to do assessments to and allow for earlier identification of needs, etc.

Fritz Reese of Juvenile Justice described dealing with about 16,000 unique individuals with 70% having at least one MH disorder and 60% with SA. They work with some Federal pass through money. 250 juveniles are in out of home placement and 50 are placed out of state. They contract with Dr. Kithas for psychiatric assessment and treatment.

Dr. Baldo suggested they invite Assemblywoman Sheila Leslie who works in the mental health court in Reno and Cary Stewart of Washoe County to report on the numbers and situation in the North.

John Martin and Brett Allen of Youth Parole reported there are about 860-870 youth being followed statewide with some at Caliente and Summit View and the remaining 600 in the community. Each parole officer works with about 45 youth with 70% having co-occurring disorders and substance abuse. Problems include finding suitable placements on release which can handle their problems and the dilemma of the adolescent "graduating" out of programs at age 18. They are working on an RFP to develop a program for some of those presently placed out of state.

**Public Comment:** Sherry and Jennifer described their successes following being involved in some of the Co-Occurring programs in Clark County. Jeanne, a counselor who works in the Community Counseling Co-OD program at SNAMHS described the problems of too many on the waiting lists, the potential loss of bus passes, that some sober houses do not allow medications, the need for more options for other levels of care and the need for more communication with the courts.

**Set Agenda and Date of Next Meeting:** We will continue with Monday afternoons and have a meeting in May. We will finish the agenda from this meeting and work on some changes Judge Elliott would like to see in NAC/NRS.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Lesley Dickson, MD