COMMISSION ON MENTAL HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

OCTOBER 10, 2002

VIDEO TELECONFERENCE MEETING LOCATIONS:

KINKEAD BUILDING, 505 EAST KING STREET, ROOM 601, CARSON CITY AND SPECIAL CHILDREN'S CLINIC, 1161 SOUTH VALLEY VIEW, CONFERENCE ROOM LAS VEGAS

MINUTES

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT AT THE LAS VEGAS LOCATION:

David Ward, Chair Eric Albers, Ph.D. John Brailsford, Ph.D. Johanna Fricke, M.D. Rena Nora, M.D. Elizabeth Richitt, Ph.D. Joan McCraw, MSN, RN, FNP

CALL TO ORDER

Chair David Ward called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M.

SETTING LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES AND DISCUSSION OF THE GOVERNOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

Chair Ward stated that the Commission meets once a year to set priorities, discuss what the Commission is doing, and discuss what to include in the Governor's Annual Report.

Commissioner Brailsford stated that he has drafted a letter to the Governor for Commission review and input. This letter discusses the issues and concerns of the Commission. The Commission discussed issues of the homeless and a new facility in Southern Nevada.

It was discussed that the Commission's responsibility is to identify needs of the clients. It is the Governor's and Legislature's responsibility to administer the funds.

Commissioners were invited to discuss any issues of concern, suggest any changes to the letter, or submit changes to Chair Ward in writing for the final letter.

Deputy Attorney General Ed Irvin suggested that the annual report to the Governor also include fiscal impact along with the recommendations.

The Commission discussed the following issues:

- Early intervention of autism to improve the child and the alleviation of suffering for families.
- A system to look across the board at the needs.

- How public services are affecting the private sector. Are they increasing a log jam? Are individuals not receiving services?
- A possible solution of the State entering into HMO contracts to provide services.
- Providing needs assessment for parents with children with autism.
- The need for accurate data collection.
- Needs assessment surveys.
- Being overwhelmed by documents.
- Coordination of Services especially in Southern Nevada to be cost effective.
- Suicide services.
- Budget cuts and how those cuts affect services.
- Not enough services to serve the population.
- Putting service providers at risk by increasing their work load.

Chair Ward stated that if Commissioners have any additional comments or issues for the letter, to e-mail those comments to be included in the final letter. He stated that he would like to get the letter out to Legislators well in advance of the 2003 Session. Chair Ward feels that if the information/recommendations is in Legislator's hands prior to the Session, the Commission may get better results from the Legislature.

Chair Ward read the letter dated April 2001 for the 2001 Legislative Session.

The Commission discussed the 2001 identified issues to determine if they fell into the coordination category, fragmentation, or continuity of care issues.

A lunch break was granted at 12:30 P.M. The meeting reconvened at 1:45 P.M.

RISK ASSESSMENT INSTRUMENT TRAINING

Dr. David Rosin gave an historical overview. The assessment issue for suicide has continued to be a concern. In 1997, the Division mandated division wide training and began looking for an assessment tool to generalize a reliable test in the North and the South. Decisions were made on risk assessment community based problems with the assessment tool. Dr. Rosin stated that about a year and a half ago, the Division mandated a Task Force for risk assessment. The Task Force agreed upon the current risk assessment form. He stated that

Commission on Mental Health and Developmental Services October 10, 2002 Page 3 of 4

this form has no validity or reliability. The clinician must explain his assessment and must comment on the data provided.

Dr. Rosin stated that the risk assessment training is mandated within ten days of hire and the policy states the employees must receive annual risk assessment training. All new admissions have a risk assessment and a follow-up plan for individuals identified as suicidal.

Dr. Rosin stated that the training piece has been developed and implemented. Training is to familiarize the staff with the form and how to fill it out. It is important to keep the issue in front of the staff with yearly trainings. It is important to remind staff that suicide is an issue. Dr. Rosin stated that he continues working on getting all staff trained.

Dr. Rosin stated that he has been reviewing all death reviews for the past 1½ years. Dr. Rosin has found that over half of the deaths involve suicides with drugs and/or alcohol. Dr. Rosin stated that he is currently in the process of collecting data.

Dr. Rosin stated that there is a need for a system of care and a place for individuals to go.

Chair Ward stated that the following list will be included in the Governor's Report:

- New Hospital for Southern Nevada;
- Early Autism Intervention;
- The Issue of Fragmentation, Coordination, and Continuity of Care;
- Suicide:
- Medication Issues;
- Mental Health Court;
- The Fiscally Counterproductive Funding Actions under funding programs that end up costing much more in the long run;
- Grant Writer:
- Integrated Services;
- Community Based Treatment as Best Practice;
- Enact New Training for Seclusion and Restraint to the list of issues.

The Commission discussed the need for grant writers within the Department. Grant writers pay for their own services.

Chair Ward stated that he would inquire with Dr. Carlos Brandenburg and Ms. Debbie Hosselkus the availability of a research/data project with statisticians to create a database along with information from experts in the field of suicide. It was discussed that possibly UNR and UNLV graduate students could do this project.

The Commission discussed integrated treatment issues.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

Commission on Mental Health and Developmental Services October 10, 2002 Page 4 of 4

REPORT FROM MHDS COMMISSIONERS/ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

There were no additional comments.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Christina Harper Recording Secretary