

MINUTES
of the
Mental Health Planning Advisory Council
Child Transition Subcommittee

meeting on
Friday, January 23, 2009

held at
Division of Mental Health and Developmental Services Training Room
4126 Technology Way, Suite 201
Carson City, NV 89706

**1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, INTRODUCTIONS –
KATHY HUGHES, CHAIR**

The Chair, Kathy Hughes called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm. The Chair asked everyone to introduce themselves to serve as roll call.

Members present:

- Hughes, Kathy – Nevada PEP, Family Member, Chair
- Kosuda, Constance – Family Member
- Peterman, Patricia – Family Member
- Polakowski, Ann - DCFS
- Snead, Lydia – Nevada PEP, Family Member

Members absent:

- Thomas, Alyce - Consumer

Staff and guests:

- Benitez, Tanya – MHPAC Administrative Assistant
- Caloiaro, Dave – MHDS
- Mowbray, Roger – Grant Consultant

**2. REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES FROM PRIOR MHPAC
CHILD TRANSITION SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING ON
11/21/08.**

Roger said the adjournment of the meeting was 11:45 am not 1:45 pm. Lydia motioned to accept the minutes with changes. Patricia seconded motion.

UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE: MOTION CARRIED

3. UPDATE HEALTHY TRANSITION ACT

Kathy said the Healthy Transition Act has been withdrawn because it was introduced without any changes from the previous submission, so at this time it can not move forward. She said it is possible this will come out in a different format and so she will keep a watch out for it.

4. DISCUSS CHILD TRANSITION ACTION ITEMS

- **MOU MONITORING**

Kathy asked Dave if he was able to follow up with the MOU. Dave has been in communication with Jodie Gerson the Community Services Director at Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services (SNAMHS). Dave shared with Jodie the copy of the referral that SNAMHS uses. Dave read Jodie's response. "Currently, if there is a referral, we ask that they send a referral 30 days before the clients 18th birthday so we can pre-screen to see if they are appropriate for services. Then once the client turns 18, actually most of them bring in on the birthday, must go to our Diagnostic and evaluation Center (DEC) to be admitted to the agency. If the client is going to need housing and other additional services, we would also look into that. Every case is different and there are times that we have to do a case by case basis. And of course the more information we have at the time of the referral the better." Dave said that it is very loose ended and not in compliance with the MOU, which requires 90 days notification.

Kathy asked for suggestions to assist in making the transition smooth in both the North and South. Dave requested clarification regarding the satisfaction of the transition process in the North. Kathy responded that people are not necessarily satisfied, but there are policies and guidelines in place. She said the area to start is to have something in place, and then take the next step of accountability for the policy. Ann asked if it would be possible to have the people involved come and discuss the MOU and what the parents should be told. Lydia said she is on the workgroup that is rewriting some of the definitions and some of verbiage of the MOU and that their first meeting is on February 5, 2009. Kathy clarified that Lydia is working on a Statewide Children's Mental Health Consortium and their strategic planning. This MOU is one of the MOU's that their group is reviewing. The group is discussing making changes, because it is statewide, there are people from the north, south, and rural areas. Kathy asked if the subcommittee wanted to table this for now to see what changes the workgroup is proposing. She said that on the consortium, there are family members, MHDS, DCFS, Medicaid and others. Constance suggested the workgroup get some input before the final draft. That way there is the opportunity to ask questions, get information, and

then make the recommendations. Kathy clarified that she would like the people involved to be invited to the subcommittee meeting. Kathy asked if the subcommittee wanted to do north and south at the same time. Constance said it would be great to have both the north and south together. With this being statewide it would provide some uniformity. Lydia said she would be willing to bring an update of the ideas for changes being presented. Dave asked if the most recent MOU between MHDS and DCFS was the August 3, 2006. Lydia confirmed, and then pointed out that two of the players involved are no longer with the Division. Dave asked about a time frame. Roger asked if there had been any discussion about tracking the results. He said the tracking had been a concern in July when the subcommittee first discussed the MOU. Lydia confirmed. She said that Pam with the Children's Cabinet is currently tracking the present system. She is not sure how it is being accomplished. Dave asked if there was a list of who was involved in updating the MOU in August 2006, and should they be included this time since they had initial input in 2006. Kathy verified that they are attempting to collaborate together so there is not a duplication of services. Dave clarified his concern in making sure someone from DCFS and MHDS are involved in the process. Lydia said that in the North they are having a hard time getting someone from MHDS to respond back to be a part of the group. She said that from the South, they do have the support. Ann asked if DCFS had responded. Lydia said yes, Patricia Merrifield has responded and is involved in the process. Kathy said that everyone does need to be brought in however; she believes that the subcommittee should wait and get a report from Lydia after the meeting on February 5, 2009. She would like to have it on the next agenda in order to get an update to see where the workgroup is, and then do the invitation.

- **FACT SHEET**

Kathy went over the draft of the fact sheet and requested input. Patricia suggested knowing what the buzzword terms are, the addresses smaller with the actual information in larger print. Ann said that most of the facilities provide the same core services. She said that there could be a sentence stating that all the facilities provide the core services and what they are, then put the additional services that each facility has. Dave concurred with Ann. He also reminded the subcommittee that with the budget cuts, there will be more clinics closing by July 1, 2009. Unfortunately, until it is finalized by the Legislature we will not know exactly which 8-10 clinics will be closing. He asked if this would be a stand alone document/brochure or was it to be a larger resource item. Kathy said that it is to be available to help families as their children are transitioning into adults. Patricia asked if it was possible to go ahead and have everything ready, so that when the Legislature confirms which clinics will be closing, they can be removed from the fact sheet. Kathy

said she would like to see at least one of the fact sheets out within the next month or two. She thought that the Rural area would be the easiest, but it may actually be the hardest based on the fact that so many clinics are going to be closing. Kathy said the subcommittee could switch to another area. Patricia suggested putting the number for people to contact to find out where they can go for services. Dave said that it is possible to put the number for the Rural Clinics Administrative Office. Patricia asked if Rural Clinics Administrative Office tracks the calls. Dave is not sure if they track those types of calls. Dave said that the subcommittee could wait, or if July is too far out proceed. Constance said that July is too far away. She asked if a clinic is put on the list and it is closing is there any way that a number that could be given that parents could call to oppose the closures of the clinics, so that people get involved to advocate for their loved one. Kathy agreed about the advocacy however; she doesn't believe that is the intention of the fact sheet. She likes the format of having the clinic and the services they provide. Kathy said she could go back and do Washoe County. She asked if there is any other information or topics that should be on the fact sheet. Lydia suggested support groups. Kathy asked about substance abuse. Constance said there is usually some co-occurrence with mental illness and substance abuse. Dave concurred and suggested that the number for Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Agency (SAPTA) be put on the sheet. SAPTA does not provide services but they do contract with providers in the communities that do both on the prevention and treatment side. Kathy asked about suicide. A member said the suicide hotline should be on the fact sheet. Roger suggested that on the top of the sheet "for transition youth" should maybe be elaborated on a little, what the youths are transitioning from. Roger said that some of the terms would not be familiar unless the person is in this particular field. Kathy asked if the subcommittee would like a glossary to be added to the fact sheet. One glossary could go with all of the fact sheets. Dave and Patricia offered to do the glossary. Dave recapped the changes: condensing the clinics, all clinics include the following core services, information regarding SAPTA, information regarding suicide prevention, and the glossary.

Patricia questioned if it would be politically sensitive to list the clinics that will definitely be remaining open and then have a line stating something to the effect of "if you are not in any of these areas, please contact (number)." Dave said it would be appropriate. He said that the majority of the clinics that will be proposed to close are satellite clinics. These clinics are the ones that are only open a couple of days a week.

Kathy wanted to know how many pages the committee is looking at to find it useful. Should there be a paragraph at the beginning that states what the fact sheet is and what it includes. Constance said that the introduction paragraph should not be needed. Dave concurred. Dave said

at the very end of the sheet there should be a statement stating "for more detailed information please visit the MHDS Rural Clinics web site at (web location)." Lydia said that the fact sheet will still need a word grabber to catch the attention of the families. Kathy will look for the information on housing, Medicaid, and other.

- **ENGAGING EDUCATION/EMPLOYMENT**

Kathy said the letter of invitation was sent out last week. As of today, she has not had a response from Jennifer. She will follow up with Jennifer next week. Patricia asked about Janell Rosenberg. Kathy verified that Janell gave the subcommittee this contact because she actually works with youths that are transitioning.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

Dave announced that Cody Phinney is the new Clinical Program Planner III for MHDS. Cody is coming from Northern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services (NNAMHS), where she served as the Performance Improvement Coordinator. Cody's first day will be Monday, February 2, 2009.

6. SET DATE AND TOPICS FOR FOLLOW-UP SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

Friday, February 27, 2009 at 1:30 pm to 3:00 pm

7. ADJOURNMENT

Lydia motioned to adjourn the meeting. Patricia seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 1:55 pm.