

MINUTES
of the
Mental Health Planning Advisory Council
Rural Monitoring Committee
meeting on
Tuesday, July 13, 2010
held at
Division of Mental Health & Developmental Service (MHDS)
4126 Technology Way, Second Floor Conference Room
Carson City, Nevada 89706

1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, INTRODUCTIONS – ALYCE THOMAS, CHAIR

As Chair of the Council, Rene chaired the Rural Monitoring Committee in Alyce's absence. She called the meeting to order at 1:42pm. A verbal roll call was completed. Tanya completed the sign-in sheet.

Members Present:

- Norris, Rene – Family Member (via teleconference in Las Vegas, NV)
- Peterman, Patricia – Family Member (via teleconference in Reno, NV)
- Phinney, Cody – MHDS
- Willingham, Bryce – Consumer (via teleconference in Laughlin, NV)

Members Absent:

- Polakowski, Ann – DCFS
- Thomas, Alyce – Consumer

Staff and guests:

- Benitez, Tanya – MHDS/MHPAC Admin. Asst.
- Mowbray, Roger – Grant Writer

2. REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES FROM PRIOR MHPAC RURAL MONITORING MEETING ON 4/20/2010

Rene asked for comments and/or changes to the 4/20/2010 minutes. No comments made.

Patricia motioned to accept as written. Bryce seconded the motion.

UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE: MOTION CARRIED

3. REVIEW AND MODIFY DRAFT REPORT OF THE MESQUITE MONITORING VISIT

Roger thanked everyone for their patience. He said it has been difficult in recreating the information from the recordings. He received a lot of information from the Rural Monitoring Visit. He went over the summary page he completed.

Roger asked for discussion or thoughts on the summary. Roger said most of the staff members are generally favorable toward the telemedicine. He said it is used primarily in Moapa and Caliente and not so much in Mesquite to deliver services to clients. Cody asked if any of the clients comment on the use of the telemedicine. Roger said he did not recall any negative comments. Bryce said the same infrastructure is taking place in Laughlin to reach searchlight and some of the outlying communities, but the service is not used in town to receive services of clients in Laughlin. Rene asked if the clients who participate in the telemedicine have to go into the clinic to use the equipment. Bryce agreed. Roger said his concept is it is beneficial under the circumstances where the availability of in person clinicians is limited. He asked if they have to wait a long period of time for an appointment with a clinician/psychiatrist. Bryce said in Laughlin it is standard procedure now to have to wait at least 90 days. Rene said that is a problem not just within state services but also in the private sector. There are so many people in need of services. Bryce said the Mesquite Clinic is a little quicker in regard to doing an intake according to a conversation he had. Roger agreed and said the staff indicated it was within a couple of weeks.

Roger said the Clinic Director has left. They are currently recruiting for a replacement. Bryce said Elaine is the interim Director. Bryce said they lost their NAMI facilitator in Mesquite and he has been in contact with them.

Roger went over collaborations as a recommendation including family resource centers, and other organizations. He asked Bryce if he has any suggestions for the recommendation. Bryce said it is an opportunity for people to take action in this category. He said it is a joint effort. The clinicians recognize the importance of having NAMI involved. He said the specific clinic directors should support more of this type of effort. Bring in the non-profit support groups and let them do their work. Roger asked Bryce; prior to the visit how often was the local chapter of NAMI conducting meetings. Bryce said a facilitator had been in place for one year and the meetings were being conducted weekly. According to the staff in Mesquite, they appreciated having the extra support. Roger said since then have they resumed on a weekly basis with the interim person. Bryce will have an answer on Thursday.

Roger said he heard from Dr. Ghertner and from the staff the reorganization is welcomed and a definite improvement over the way it was before. The reorganization meaning that the Mesquite Clinic reports to Dr. Ghertner at SNAMHS instead of the Rural Services Office in Carson City. Bryce agreed. The Mesquite Clinic has a good working relationship with the City of Mesquite Police Department. Roger said all of the clients in the focus groups spoke very favorably about the staff at the clinic.

NV PEP very active. Rene said it would be nice to know how often. What do they mean by very active? Patricia asked if NV PEP in the area have the same things that they have in the Reno area. Rene said that they do not go to Mesquite that often and that is why she said they need to find out how often they go and do the activities. She said the rural areas are not included outside of the Las Vegas area. Roger said he will double check their website. Rene said they can pull the data out of the database also.

Roger will reference the newspaper article and the tremendous turn out at the open house that they had. He asked for any other successes that stood out.

Bryce asked if they had a good response to the written surveys that were handed out. Roger said he received less than 12 back. They had so many people at the Mesquite visit that they were unable to get through all of the questions. He heard a few comments that people felt the questions were a little invasive. They will need to discuss how to better capture the information prior to the next rural monitoring visit.

Roger went over the challenges. He said most of them are pretty general challenges for all rural areas. Retention is not as big of a problem as it used to be due to people holding onto their jobs despite some of the cutbacks just because the state of the economy. The development of the clinical staff is an item that will be cutback. It is one of the first things that go when they have to look at trying to identify and maintain the core services. He asked for any challenges that he did not have in the summary.

Roger went through the unmet needs. He will add transportation being very challenging for the rural areas because he heard it a number of times.

Roger went over recommendations. Exploring one time opportunities, he said they have built money into the budget that is specifically earmarked for recommendations that comes out of the rural monitoring reports. He believes this will help prevent confusion in the fulfilling of the recommendations made. He said the telemedicine grant will require more research. In looking at the telemedicine grant opportunity is that given the fiscal condition of the state, the only real possibility of the state getting the grant would be to partner with some type of private enterprise, whether it is a clinic or some other medical provider who would be able to provide the matching grant. The minimum requirement is

15%, but the USDA really made the scoring lean toward a minimum of almost 30%. Rene asked how much it would be in dollars. Roger said the rural areas are targeting a system in the 10 to 15,000.00 range. That would be 1500 to 4500 that they would need to convince a private entity to contribute. They would benefit. They would be able to purchase equipment and the equipment would be owned by the state because grants do not grant equipment to private entities. They give it to cognizant agencies – state agencies. Rene asked if they would be adequate systems. Roger said these were based on a demo of Tandberg items. Roger will do some more research. Rene asked if they have approached some of the Dr.'s that would be using this equipment. Roger said he thought they should start with groups that have a base. Rene thought maybe some of the hospitals where the clinic is in that actual hospital. Roger will explore the options. This is really the only avenue for the money. It is an annual grant opportunity. Rene said Target and Wal-Mart have community grants that they give out also to help in the community and to bring services to the community.

The staff did identify the need for display racks to display brochures and pamphlets. They do not have them very well organized. Roger said Bruce suggested contacting the high school shop class to see if they would be willing to make it a project. Roger asked for any other recommendations at this point. None were made.

Rene said the MGM Voice Foundation is a foundation within the MGM Mirage properties. It is employee run. They donate money through their paychecks and they give it out as grants. She believes they have MGM properties in Lake Tahoe. Lake Tahoe is considered a rural area correct. Roger confirmed that Douglas County is a rural area.

Cody suggested adding Bruce to the next meeting beings he represented Cody during the monitoring visit.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment made.

5. SET DATE AND TOPICS FOR FOLLOW-UP MEETING

July 28, 2010 at 1:30 pm would be ideal. Roger will confirm that Ann is available for the meeting.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Patricia motioned to adjourn. Bryce seconded the motion.

Meeting adjourned at 2:25 pm.