MINUTES

of the

Mental Health Planning Advisory Council

meeting on

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

held at

Mental Health and Developmental Services
4126 Technology Way, Suite 201
Carson City, NV 89706

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

Members present:

- Hughes, Kathy – Chair, Nevada PEP, Family Member
- Kosuda, Constance – Family Member
- Peterman, Patricia – Family Member
- Thomas, Alyce – Family Member, Consumer

Members absent:

- Bousquet, Judy – Consumer
- Polakowski, Ann – DCFS
- Snead, Lydia – Nevada PEP, Family Member

Staff and guests:

- Benitez, Tanya – MHPAC Administrative Assistant
- Koepke, Alicia – Consumer (via video conference)
- Kramer, Michelle
- Mowbray, Roger – Grant Consultant
- Bennett, Marcia – Rural Regional Center (RRC)

2. REVIEW THE POLICY AND PROCEDURE BETWEEN DIVISION OF CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES (DCFS) AND MENTAL HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES (MHDS) FOR TRANSITIONING YOUTH – KATHY HUGHES

   The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was reviewed. Kathy stated that in 2006 a revised MOU was put forth. Kathy said that she would like to educate families. Patricia wanted to know if this would include all children. Patricia stated that she was not aware that the MOU existed. Alicia asked if the MOU was

in effect and who ensures that the agencies follow the MOU. Kathy stated that the MOU is very explicate in their procedures. Alyce stated she believes the transition process should start at 16 ½ years of age and not three months prior to turning 18. She stated three months is not enough time. Alyce suggested that Kathy meet with DCFS and MHDS to go over the MOU.

Marcia stated that she has monthly meetings with DCFS staff and children to meet and work with during the process. She stated there is a protocol that they follow. Alicia stated her daughter refuses to use Rural Clinics due to inconsistencies. She stated with Rural Mental Health Clinics closing they are going to cost more money. She stated Lyon County does not have public transportation, and there are going to be parents who will allow their children to get arrested just so they can get some treatment. Constance concurred that children are not getting adequate services. She wanted to know how to get accountability in the state.

Patricia moved to discuss the MOU for the next Council meeting. Alyce suggested bringing the MOU and its enforcement to the Mental Health Commission. Constance stated the problems need to be documented. Alicia said the problems were because of funding. Constance stated problems with money should not constitute a ready excuse. Alyce said there is a need for accountability.

Alyce seconded the motion to discuss the MOU at the next Council meeting.

UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE: MOTION CARRIED

3. HEALTHY TRANSITION ACT – KATHY HUGHES

Kathy stated when the Healthy Transition Act passes, there are areas for some money. Alyce agreed this could be a funding source, but is concerned because the Governor may not want to sign. There are ways to get monies from other entities. The Subcommittee and Council need to make sure that it is non-federally funded money.

Patricia wanted to know if there is someone within the Council that goes to the Legislature to represent the Council. Alyce stated anyone on the Council is welcome to go, however everyone should be united when representing the Council. Kathy stated everyone is also free to write Congress.

Motion made to keep the Healthy Transition Act as a permanent agenda item. Motion seconded.

UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE: MOTION CARRIED

4. DISCUSS GOALS FOR THE COMMITTEE – KATHY HUGHES

Kathy said she would like to start with DCFS and the MOU. She suggested the Subcommittee put together a fact sheet for parents and asked for ideas. Alicia said parents need to know what they can do for children with Severe Emotional Disturbance (SED). The parents need true facts of what services are really available and the process. Constance stated the specific agencies need to be held accountable and not turning people away from services. Kathy stated the Subcommittee needs to find out what type of barriers people are running into, if the children are not engaged, you lose them. Some of the issues are housing, jobs, and education. Patricia wanted to know if the Department of Education (DOE) could be invited to be a member of the subcommittee. The response was that Janell Rosenberg (DOE) would be contacted and invited to participate with the subcommittee.

Constance discussed and agenda item request for a program developed with Change of Heart Artistic as an alternative to violence. She stated the key motive is to prevent youths from going to jail.

Alicia motioned that education become a permanent agenda item. Patricia seconded motion.

UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE: MOTION CARRIED

5. DISCUSS WORK PLAN – KATHY HUGHES

A statement was made that the unemployment rate is over ten percent. Constance stated that this needs to be discussed. Kathy said she is not talking about getting the children who are transitioning a job, but training them and giving them the tools they need to get a job. Alyce concurred that providing the tools for children to become skilled for the job market is important and will involve education and training. Constance stated it is necessary to make sure that the jobs stay here in this country. Patricia stated that employers, who hire children with disabilities in transition, may be eligible for a tax break on their Unemployment Insurance through the Employment Security Department. She will check into that. Michelle stated these opportunities should be mentioned in the fact sheet, so people know. Patricia stated that children should be able to formulate resumes and the schools could assist in this. Children should know how to prepare for interviews, etc. Constance stated there are too many irregularities.

Alyce suggested that the subcommittee choose three to five items per year to work on, that way as one item is accomplished it can be replaced with another and allows the subcommittee to track their accomplishments.

Kathy motioned that the first three items be Monitoring the MOU, Fact Sheet, and Engaging Education/Employment. Motion was seconded.

UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE: MOTION CARRIED

Action plans for each of the three items were discussed.

A) Monitoring the MOU
   - Kathy to meet with DCFS & MHDS
   - Bring the information to the Council for Alyce to present to the Commission
   - Alyce will discuss with the Commission and bring back to the Child Transition Committee

Roger suggested research regarding the MOU as some of the statistics may already be available for review. Marcia also suggested speaking with the agency heads. Patricia stated that both agencies should have some form of tracking.

B) Fact Sheet (to provide to parents, care givers, and other s that may be in need of information)
   - Kathy requested everyone put down ideas of items to include in fact sheet and email to Tanya, who will bring it to the next meeting
   - Decide on facts
   - Put together in presentable form
   - Distribution to the public –Announcements, website, school boards, commission, state offices, etc.

C) Education
   - Invite Janell Rosenberg to participate with the Child Transition Subcommittee

Patricia suggested looking into the Office of Special Education at the Federal level. Kathy and Patricia will pull the information from the computer.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT – KATHY HUGHES

Alyce asked Marcia to be a part of the committee. Marcia stated that if she is unable to participate, she will recommend someone. Constance stated that she has a friend who may be able to join

The next meeting was set for August 19, 2008.

7. ADJOURNMENT – KATHY HUGHES

Alicia motioned to adjourn. Patricia seconded the motion.
UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE: MEETING ADJOURNED AT 11:50 AM