

**Mayview Steering Committee
Meeting Summary
February 18, 2011**

Members Present: Karen Bennett, Tim Casey, Jenna Cawthorne, Mary Jo Dickson, Mary Fleming, Lea Ann Gerkin, Darryl Holts, Carol Horowitz, Matt Koren, Austin Lee, Carol Loy, Dave McAdoo, Edna McCutcheon, Karyl Merchant, Chris Michaels, Gerard Mike, Brandi Mauck Phillips, Rick Rach, Carol Rico, Shirlee Hopper-Scherch, Wes Sowers, Jan Taper, Val Vicari, Kim Welsh

Members Absent: Dee Burgess, John Carran, Laverne Cichon, Angela Harris, Mary Jo Patrick-Hatfield, Nancy Jaquette, Ray Jaquette, Donna McCurdy, Ken Thompson, Pat Tickle, Pat Valentine, Joe Venasco, Dean Virgili, Deb Wasilchak

Others Present: Debbie Duch, Community Care Behavioral Health, Sue Estroff, University of North Carolina; Doritta Gross, Mercy Behavioral Health; Courtney Kuza, University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work; Cari Stofko, Torrance State Hospital

1. Review of Minutes from December Meeting

One change to the minutes from December 17 was identified: add Pennsylvania Mental Health Consumers Association (PMHCA) and NAMI Southwest PA to the list of collaborators on the PA Olmstead Plan. They will be posted to the MRSAP website following these revisions.

2. Regional Plan

Mary Fleming discussed the development of a Regional Plan for the region going forward, including the purpose and proposed planning process. A working outline for the plan was distributed for review and comment. The proposed outline includes components from each county's MH plan, the Olmstead plan, incorporates special population needs, potential gaps in service delivery, and other cross-county issues. AHCI is suggesting the use of work groups to identify, prioritize, and develop strategies to address regional issues. Stakeholder feedback will also be solicited during this process. The goal is to have a draft plan by this summer, with a final plan in place by year-end.

Discussion followed regarding funding opportunities and attaching a proposed budget to the plan, which was encouraged by several members of the Committee. Also suggested was including other sources of funding to leverage potential State and Federal dollars.

3. Mayview Briefing Paper

Mary reviewed the Mayview briefing paper, which was designed to provide an overview of the closure process for the new administration and general population.

A suggestion was made to add a clarification to the statistics on the second page of the paper stating that those who were hospitalized and/or incarcerated since the closure had returned back to the community. Another suggestion was to augment the section that mentions peer support services to include the relationship building and community support services that were provided. It was also suggested that physical and behavioral health integration be added. Discussion ensued regarding the need for brevity while still including the salient points. Mary requested that Steering Committee members send their comments to her by Tuesday, February 22.

4. Mercy Behavioral Health—Update on SOS Program Transitions

Doritta Gross reported on the transition from state operated services to mental health regional services provided by Mercy Behavioral Health (MBH). Small homes have few staff vacancies; residents are doing well and participating in various activities. Although state staff was encouraged to apply for open positions, most did not elect to stay. Doritta mentioned that MBH has hired ASL staff and interpreters for hearing impaired residents at Monarch Springs and continues to work with Allegheny County to finalize arrangements to contract with Father Hal.

Reported incidents were all physical health-related, including one death by natural causes.

Val Vicari thanked Mercy for their hard work and diligence in making the transition a success.

5. Updates to Referral Process for Regional Residential Programs

Matt provided an overview of the referral process for residential programs. Jill Allen handles the residential referrals and sends monthly updates on potential expected vacancies for the following month.

Discussion ensued regarding the number of individuals on residential waiting lists, method of determining residential needs by treatment teams, and process and movement within LTSRs. Allegheny County is the only county with a residential waiting list, which was attributed to the volume and complexity of their system.

The Committee also discussed affordable housing vs. resources, the privatization of housing services and the overall dilemma of helping residents determine their wants and needs.

Doritta suggested Committee members send her or Jill Allen an e-mail with any additional questions regarding housing or transition of services.

6. Advocate Strategies for New Administration

Mary reported on the plan to prepare a brief piece on advocacy to be distributed to legislators and other stakeholders, and solicited advice and feedback from Committee members on other ideas. She mentioned three points of advocacy to be included: 1) budget issues, 2) continued state hospital closures, and 3) BH carve-out.

Val suggested preparing information specifically for Gary Alexander, the Acting Secretary of the Department of Public Welfare, to include budgeting and address questions he may receive during the confirmation process. Other suggestions included:

- Letter writing campaign, focusing on Governor and legislators
- Group visits to Harrisburg and to legislators
- Develop fact sheets and other materials to be distributed by groups

Val added that the new administration agrees with the hospital closures, and suggested that advocates also focus on demonstrating how the Mayview closure effort was successful for the region because the resulting funds were redistributed back into the community.

Discussion followed regarding trends in other states with Republican leadership and the need to pay attention to what is happening in those areas as it may come to pass in Pennsylvania.

7. Stakeholder Meeting

Mary announced that a Stakeholder Meeting is scheduled for Friday, June 17 at a location yet to be determined. Tentative agenda items include an update from Sherry Snyder on other SAP meetings and a report on the two years post-closure. We will also be inviting the Acting Secretary of DPW, Gary Alexander.

She suggested forming a work group to focus on the agenda and said Matt Koren would coordinate. Volunteers include Chris Michaels, Sharon Miller, Mary Jo Dickson and Carol Horowitz.

8. Mayview Presentations

Val mentioned that she would like us to consider presenting the Mayview region's history and process at six hospital service area planning meetings for stakeholders across the state, which would include county administrators and consumers. She emphasized the importance of communicating our success with other areas, especially considering the implementation of the Olmstead Plan. Discussion ensued regarding travel budget issues and development of a standing presentation on process and outcomes. Also discussed was the need for volunteers. Shirlee Hopper-Scherch offered to present the peer-support programs at these meetings. Other volunteers include Darryl Holts, representatives from NAMI Southwest PA and Debbie Duch from Community Care Behavioral Health. There was also a suggestion for involvement from Consumer Action and Response Team (CART).

The tentative timeline would be two presentations the week of March 14 in Danville and Clarks-Summit, with additional presentations at the end of April/beginning of May at the other state hospitals. Mary added that we would follow up with specific dates once the state provides specific areas of focus for each of the meetings.

9. University of Pittsburgh Study

Sue Estroff gave an update on the University of Pittsburgh Discharge Study. Additional recruiting was conducted to gain a larger sample of consumers at both ends of the continuum: those who are doing very well, and those who are not. They are working with a list of 48 people with five interviewers, and were successful in convincing four individuals to re-enroll after dropping out.

10. Topics for Upcoming Next Steering Committee Meeting – April 15, 2011

Topics for the next Steering Committee meeting include:

- State budget
- Future of Steering Committee
- Outline of 2-year post-closure report
- Presentation of abstract on community integration with Mayview as example

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be held on Friday, April 15 from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at the **Airport Marriott**.