



STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES

MENTAL HEALTH DIVISION PO BOX 45320, OLYMPIA WA 98504-5320 (360) 902-8070

# Mental Health Housing Consortium

July 23, 2009

Embassy Suites Hotel – SeaTac, WA

## Notes

- 9:30am-10:00am**      **Light Morning Refreshments and Greetings**
- 10:00am-10:30am**      **Welcome and Introduction of New Members, Goals for the Day, and Sharing Knowledge and Best Practices**
- Frank Jose, MHD
    - o First time attendees, Jody Becker-Green and Toni Johnson were introduced.
    - o Four updates were given:
      - Dan Schaub, JRA– due to budget cuts, 30% of offenders will no longer be put on parole after their release.
      - Chelan-Douglas has broke ground on their permanent housing project.
      - Jim Bloss informed the group that housing is a high priority for the use of .1% tax in Snohomish County.
      - Rick Herrell, Kitsap Mental Health – work is being done by him and his team to provide safe parking for those living in their cars.
- 10:30am-11:10am**      **Clark County RSN Housing Plan - Presentation and Keys to Success**
- Melodie Pazolt, Clark County RSN
    - o Melodie Pazolt, gave an overview of the Clark County RSN housing plans and work, how they got to where they are, and plans and ideas for the future. See the attached PowerPoint and other handouts for more information.
- 11:10am-11:50am**      **King County Landlord Liaison Project- Presentation and Keys to Success**
- Katy Miller, King County Housing and Community Development
  - Linda Rasmussen, YWCA
    - o Katy and Linda gave an overview of the King County Landlord Liaison Project (LLP), managed by the YWCA of Seattle. The project began in January 2009 and allows landlords to use alternative screening criteria with the promise of 24 hour case management to the LLP tenants and landlords. There is also a risk reduction fund in place which provides landlords with comfort that should damages occur, they will receive assistance with the repair costs, to date none of the funds have been used. Cooperating social service agencies make referrals to the LLP and have a formal agreement that includes “guaranteed” on-site service provision for 2 years (that is about to change to 1 year) and a 2-day response time when services are requested.
    - o Linda described the details/components of the project, the progress that has been made since it began, and the success and barriers they have experienced. To date 60 clients have been referred for LLP services and 40 have been housed.
    - o See the attached flyer for more information. Katy and Linda’s contact information can be found under “guests” on the Member List.



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- 11:50am-12:00pm Affinity Group feedback and lunch instructions**
- Frank Jose, MHD
    - o The policy and rural groups continued their affinity work during lunch and Katie and Melodie were available for further discussion on their presentation topics.
- 12:00pm-1:00pm Lunch with Affinity Groups or Presenters**
- 1:00pm-1:30pm Update: housing plan performance**
- Lynn Davison, Common Ground & Frank Jose, MHD
    - o Lynn Davison gave an overview presentation on the Mental Health Housing Action Plan, a report prepared by Common Ground in 2007 as part of the Systems Transformation Initiative (STI). The presentation provided an update on goals set in this report for Permanent Supportive Housing units. See the attached PowerPoint for more information.
- 1:30pm-2:10pm Creating a MHHC Policy Priorities- State & RSN and County Level Issues**
- Lynn Davison, Common Ground
    - o Lynn and Frank presented a paper which offered policy issue discussion items for consortium members' consideration. The group brainstormed a list of priority policies in which they felt their influence could make a difference. Members then indicated the two policies they felt were the most important and that they wanted to participate on. See below for a table of the policies brainstormed and the individuals who signed up.
- 2:10pm-2:25pm Break**
- 2:25pm-3:05pm Creating a MHHC Policy Priorities- State & RSN and County Level Issues – Cont.**
- Lynn Davison, Common Ground
    - o The three policies areas with the most interest were selected and assigned a lead.
    - o Leads will contact Jessica Bayne to set up conference calls with other members in their group, prior to the next MHHC meeting, to discuss and make suggestions for that policy topic.
    - o It was agreed that all MHHC members who were not present would be given an opportunity to indicate which of the identified policy priorities they believe the MHHC should pursue; suggest additional policy areas for the MHHC to consider; and/or have the opportunity to indicate interest in participating in an existing policy group.
    - o ***The list of proposed policy priorities, number of votes received and members present who volunteered to work on them is provided as a separate document and will be used to gather opinions and interest from members unable to attend on July 23<sup>rd</sup>.***



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**3:05pm-3:45pm**

**Tracking Progress - Data Collection/Proposed Updates to Data Dictionary**

- Frank Jose, MHD
  - Frank brought forth some suggested changes to the data dictionary language in relation to housing. He requested comments from the group.
  - David Albert, Sr. Planner and Policy Analyst at DASA gave advice to the group to look at the data elements using a long-term approach. Though money will not come immediately, given the right data collection elements and results, this approach will eventually pay off. It took DASA 15 years to get the funding they requested. They did it by showing the long-term cost savings. Making the right choices on data collection is critical. If we look at too narrowly, we may not be able to collect the necessary data to achieve our goals.
  - Comments included:
    - Confusion between what is considered “receiving support” and “without support” – Some felt that this support related to mental health services while others felt that it was references in-home services like care-giving. This “support” definition needs to be clarified.
    - Since foster homes are licensed by the state, the word “county” should be removed from the definition.
    - There was confusion and concern around to word “treatment” in the Residential definitions as well as the definition of unstable/temporary services.
    - It was suggested that reviewing policies and system priorities, then paralleling the data requirements to track them would be helpful.
    - Creating data elements that are meaningful at the county/local level is important so RSNs can identify strengths and weaknesses and improve services.
  - By the amount of suggestions and discussion necessary for each sub-section, it was evident that further discussion will be necessary. This topic will be put on next meeting’s agenda.

**3:45pm-4:00pm**

**Evaluation, Identify Potential Agenda items for September’s Meeting and Adjourn**

- Topics discussed as agenda items for our next meeting include:
  - The value of continuing the consortium
  - Continue data collection dialog
  - A potential legislator panel (Frank is working on)
  - Breakout time to discuss policy issues within the identified groups
  - Housing Connections presentation