

MID-SOUTH SUBSTANCE ABUSE COMMISSION

March 23, 2009 – 6:00 p.m.
Hilliard Building, 1st Floor Conference Room
121 E. Maple Street
Mason, Michigan

M I N U T E S

MEMBERS PRESENT

Ralph Tillotson, Chair
Joe Brehler
Jan Bunting
Shirley Carter
Dale Copedge
Brad Densmore
Debbie DeLeon
Pam DeVaney-Bozinoff
Lynn Mason
Stan Nieboer
Earl Poleski
Robert Showers
Deborah Smith
Jim VanDoren

GUESTS

Lisa McCafferty, Ionia alternate
Judith Cates, CEI-CMHA
Patricia Wheeler, NCA/LRA

STAFF

Gary VanNorman, Exec. Director
Gerrie Roeser, Finance Manager
Mary Kronquist, Treatment Manager
Lori Griffin, Executive Secretary
Joel Hoepfner, Prevention Coordinator

MEMBERS ABSENT

Dale Barr
Cliff Herl
Jean Golden

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Tillotson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Ms. Mason called roll; 14 present and 3 absent. Two members arrived after roll call.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 23, 2009

Ms. DeLeon moved approval of the minutes of February 23, 2009 as presented. Mr. Showers supported the motion. The motion carried.

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no additions. Item VII. B deferred to Executive Committee report.

COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communications.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Mason thanked Mr. VanNorman for attending the Ionia Board meeting and making a presentation.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Director's Report

Mr. VanNorman reported the following:

- the office had its annual site review from ODCP. Results and feedback will be reported when known.
- Per Capita spending report sent in packet which represents only block grant funding. Provided for information only and take caution in interpreting the information.

C. Advisory Council Consideration

This proposal is a means to get clients involved in our activities. PDC has reviewed and moved it to the full Board for discussion. The proposal recommends that two members from each county, each in recovery or directly associated with recovery, be appointed to Mid-South's reconstituted Advisory Council. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Showers moved to bring the Advisory Council question back before the full Commission in April. Ms. DeVaney-Bozinoff supported the motion. The motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Treasurer's Report for January 2009

Mr. Brehler moved the Executive Committee recommendation for approval of the Community Grant portion of the Treasurer's Report for January 2009. Ms. DeLeon supported the motion. The motion carried.

Mr. Brehler moved the Executive Committee recommendation for approval of the Medicaid portion of the Treasurer's Report for January 2009. Mr. Densmore supported the motion. The motion carried.

B. Program Development Committee Report

Ms. Smith reported the Committee reviewed three policies (Medicaid Administrative Hearing, Communicable Disease, Methadone, and Delinquency) and recommends their approval.

Ms. Smith moved to accept the Medicaid Administrative Hearing, Communicable Disease, Methadone, and Delinquency policies. Mr. VanDoren supported the motion. The motion carried.

Also discussed were some difficulties being experienced by providers surrounding the CCC and new procedures. There is a learning curve that some are still working on, including CCC.

Methadone programming was discussed. With CEI making the decision to close the methadone program effective May 31, 2009 a new provider for methadone services will need to be found. The Committee recommends staff pursue discussions with Victory Clinic for award of the Methadone RFP.

Ms. Smith moved to endorse support for providing financial support to Birchtree Cottage for the remainder of the current fiscal year and to move that recommendation to the Finance Committee. Mr. VanDoren supported the motion. The motion carried.

Ms. Smith reported on a raining her and Ms. Kronquist attended featuring Scott Miller and his approach to client feedback to treatment. This is something staff will be looking at for possible implementation for next fiscal year.

It was noted the motion made and carried for the policies was to discuss but did not include approval.

Ms. Smith moved to accept the Communicable Disease, Medicaid Administration, and Delinquency policies for approval. Mr. VanDoren supported the motion. The motion carried.

C. Executive-Personnel-Finance Committee Report

Mr. VanNorman reported five policies were presented to the Committee for review: Room and Board, Audit Guidelines, Supplemental Funding, Insurance Benefits, and Conflict of Interest.

Mr. Copedge moved to accept the five policies as reviewed with changes made, for approval. Ms. DeLeon supported the motion. The motion carried.

Ms. DeLeon moved approval for additional funding in the amount of \$45,000 for the G-14 methadone program to maintain services through May 31, 2009; \$75,000 (\$15,000 of Ingham PA2 and \$60,000 block grant funding) for the new contractor for the remainder of the fiscal year for methadone services; and approval of additional Birchtree funding in the amount of \$178,112 (\$15,000 Medicaid, \$90,000 Ingham PA2 and \$73,112 block grant) to retain detox services in the region. Mr. Copedge supported the motion.

Ms. Mason moved to reconsider the motion and separate the methadone request from the Birchtree request. Mr. Showers supported the motion. The motion carried with Mr. Nieboer voting no.

Mr. Showers moved approval for \$45,000 of block grant funding for G-14 methadone program for the remainder of the fiscal year, and \$75,000 (\$60,000 block grant and \$15,000 Ingham PA2) for a new provider of methadone services from June 1 to September 30, 2009. Ms. DeLeon supported the motion.

Ms. Mason stated although the decision to close the methadone program was made by CEI she still had concerns, specifically with costs for Victory Clinic possibly being more that what are stated, and the fact that approximately 6 individuals will lose their jobs in a program that works well and has a healthy client count. Mr. Copedge responded that CEI made a decision to not continue to provide services at a deficit, and there is no way this board can make CEI continue. He agreed it was unfortunate that some would lose their jobs. He added he didn't understand the potential of putting off finding a new provider for the clients. Mr. Showers called the question.

Vote was called on the motion. The motion carried with final results of Ms. Mason and Ms. Bunting voting no.

Mr. VanDoren moved the Executive Committee recommendation for \$178,112 of funding for Birchtree Cottage for the remainder of the fiscal year, with the stipulation that the contract is subject to other funding sources, and if those materialize, Mid-South's commitment will be offset. Mr. Poleski supported the motion. The motion carried.

Mr. Poleski moved approval of the FY07/08 Annual Report as submitted. Ms. DeLeon supported the motion. The motion carried.

D. Ad Hoc Committee

Ms. Mason questioned if the Ad Hoc Committee would be charged with conducting the Executive Director's evaluation. Mr. VanNorman replied that according to the By-Laws, it is a function of the Executive-Personnel-Finance Committee. Mr. Showers noted it was his recommendation that the new Chair and the Director meet to discuss future employment.

Mr. Poleski moved to add the director's evaluation to the agenda for the April Executive Committee meeting. Mr. Showers supported the motion.

Discussion ensued on what was being proposed. Mr. Poleski suggested a general review of the director's employment contract (in executive session or not—his choice). He added if Mr. VanNorman decides to not pursue renewal of his contract, time will be needed to recruit a new director, or if issues arise, time may be needed to address those. Mr. Showers stated he wanted discussions to begin now because the end of the year will be here soon, and the Commission needs a good sense of where things are going. Mr. VanDoren concurred with Mr. Showers, adding the Chairman and director should meet, review any changes to the contract, and bring those to the board for review. The motion on the table was withdrawn.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:11 p.m.