

MID-SOUTH SUBSTANCE ABUSE COMMISSION
June 23, 2008 – 6:00 p.m.
Michigan High School Athletic Association
1661 Ramblewood Drive
East Lansing, Michigan

MINUTES

Members Present:

Robert Showers, Chairman
Dale Barr
Joe Brehler
Jan Bunting
Shirley Carter
Dale Copedge
Brad Densmore
Debbie DeLeon
Jean Golden
Cliff Herl
Lynn Mason
Jerry Michalowicz
Earl Poleski
Bob VanBelzen
Jim VanDoren

Absent:

Deborah Smith
Ralph Tillotson

Guests:

Carol Patterson, Cristo Rey
Brian Smith, Gratiot Co. Administrator
Patricia Wheeler, NCA/LRA
Peggy Phelps, CDRS
Bruce Hindenach, CDRS
Alan Platt, CEICMH-CATS
Ericanne Spence, CEICMH-HOC
John Roy Castillo, Cristo Rey
Lisa McCafferty, Ionia H.D.

Staff:

Gary VanNorman, Exec. Director
Mary Kronquist, Treatment & Program
Development Manager
Gerrie Roeser, Finance Manager
Lori Griffin, Exec. Secretary
Jill Gawronski, Finance Assistant
Jeanne Diver, Quality Assurance Mgr.
Joel Hoepfner, Prevention Coordinator

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Showers called the meeting to order at 6:38 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Mr. VanBelzen called roll; 15 present and 2 absent.

Mr. Showers noted Ms. Carter's appearance on television regarding the Juneteenth celebration. She noted she was on the celebration committee and briefly explained what Juneteenth was.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF MAY 27, 2008

Mr. Poleski moved approval of the minutes of May 27, 2008 as presented. Mr. VanBelzen supported the motion. The motion carried.

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

Ms. Bunting asked for the materials she requested at the Program Development Committee. Mr. Showers stated that would be addressed under Old Business. Mr. Copedge questioned if sensitive materials should be addressed in closed session. It was noted all that was being provided is copies of staff job descriptions.

Mr. VanDoren moved approval of the agenda as printed. Mr. Herl supported the motion. The motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. VanNorman reported the press release regarding McCullough, Vargas was for information. He stated the funding request for the CATS program was also sent to some other CAs as we currently pay several thousand dollars for residents of other countess to be served there, so they were approached for funding. Mr. VanNorman stated the allocation letter is for information and that subsequently, notice was received that the State is giving an additional \$50,000 for services this year, which will help offset some costs in the amendment.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Director's Report

Mr. VanNorman reported activity reports were provided for managers. He also stated his desire to have a Board Retreat in August in place of the regular meeting. Among items for an agenda would be addressing service needs of clients and preparation for next year. He asked for any ideas members have to be sent to him.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Treasurer's Report

Mr. Poleski moved acceptance of the Treasurer's Report as recommended by the Executive Committee. Mr. VanDoren supported the motion. The motion carried.

B. Program Development Committee Report

Ms. Mason reported the Access/Utilization item was brought off the table and extensive discussion took place. She also noted the Committee went into Executive Session to discuss items covered under attorney-client privilege. Ms. Mason also noted a recommendation was made to establish a work group to further look into the pros and cons of moving functions in-house, but the recommendation failed. She added the recommendation coming from the Committee includes seeking an AG opinion.

C. Executive-Personnel-Finance Committee Report

Ms. Mason commended Mr. Lloyd on his complete report on the audit. Mr. Densmore commended staff for their hard work.

Mr. VanDoren moved to accept the FY2006/2007 financial audit and place it on file. Ms. Carter supported the motion. The motion carried.

Ms. Golden moved approval of the Executive Committee recommendation to distribute remaining Calhoun County PA2 dollars in the amount of \$9,488.41 to the Kalamazoo CA to close out Mid-South's obligation, with a letter to the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners chairperson reporting the transmission. Mr. Copedge supported the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Golden moved approval of the Executive Committee recommendation to forward to the Kalamazoo CA, Minority Program Services FY06/07 financial audit in order that they deal with the final disposition of over payment of PA2 dollars to the provider last year. Ms. Carter supported the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. VanDoren moved approval of the Executive Committee recommendation to recognize the Ionia County alternate member status of Lisa McCafferty, noting she is a provider of services. Mr. Herl supported the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Golden moved approval of the Executive Committee recommendation for approval of the administrative budget amendment. Mr. VanDoren supported the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Poleski moved approval of the Executive Committee recommendation for approval of the provider budget amendments.

Ms. DeLeon made a friendly amendment to shift \$10,000 of Ingham County PA2 dollars out of the CDRS budget into a direct relationship with the Carefree Clinic. Ms. Golden supported the amendment. The amendment carried unanimously.

Vote on the original motion carried unanimously.

Mr. VanNorman reported on the Problem Gambling RFP, which was sent to all CAs, and for which Mid-South wrote a proposal. He stated a total of \$130,570 was asked for; \$94,000 for client services and the remainder for administration of the grant. It would provide for screening and counseling, and would assist providers in getting their staff trained. He added word should be received by the end of July.

Discussion ensued regarding Regional Access/Utilization. Mr. VanNorman stated this was discussed by both Committees, and a total of \$200,000 can be saved and put back into treatment if administrative functions are brought in-house and direct services being done at the provider level.

Mr. Showers noted the recommendation out of the Program Development Committee included language to seek an attorney general opinion, which was not discussed by the Executive Committee. Mr. VanNorman clarified it was discussed from a financial perspective, but no desire to seek one was stated, deferring discussion for this meeting.

Ms. Golden stated requests were made previously and not acted on, and asked if there was a reason now to move forward to seek an opinion which may or may not be received, or just a good faith effort be made to get it. She suggested this be added as an amendment when a formal motion is made. Ms. Mason read a section from the Program Development Committee minutes of June 16 which states what the Committee wants.

Mr. VanDoren moved approval of the staff recommendation to move administrative functions delineated under ODCP access management policy and allowed under Administrative Rule allowed internal to Mid-South no later than October 1, 2008 without an AG opinion. Mr. Brehler supported the motion.

Ms. Golden made a friendly amendment to the motion to include requesting an attorney general opinion on the regulations and their legality. Mr. Copedge supported the motion.

Ms. Bunting stated she had already taken the issue to someone and it would go to the attorney general's office soon. Mr. Brehler stated the rules have already been approved and are legal. Discussion continued relative to events in 2006 when the AG opinion was requested of the former director, with Mr. Brehler stating the point is now moot as a result of the state's action in 2007.

Ms. Golden withdrew her friendly amendment.

Discussion turned to the original motion. Ms. Mason stated the reasons she wanted the issue reconsidered.

Mr. Poleski stated his concerns, specifically logistics, staffing, and the transition from CDRS to Mid-South in light of CDRS' displeasure with the process. He added when staff presents a recommendation to the Board, it is their responsibility to consider it seriously and implement if the request is appropriate. He stated his support of the desired action and that he would watch closely how the transition proceeds.

Mr. Brehler noted his support, noting what has transpired is a second bureaucracy being placed between the client and access to services. He added with dollars allocated to CDRS the administrative cap would increase from approximately 13% to 19%, which in his opinion is too high. He asked if our loyalty should be to people we serve or to our agencies. And he added if \$200,000 can be saved, and having no funding increase in 15 years, the money will be well spent in treatment services.

Ms. DeLeon stated her concern that the issue was delayed for so long in the Program Development Committee, and that she was sad that the decision had to impact one agency so significantly. She added her hope that Mid-South and CDRS could work together in the future.

Ms. Mason commented on the tabling of the issue in the Program Development Committee, stating it was a serious issue, did not have sufficient financial or staffing information, and specific dollar amounts were not provided. She added her feeling the process was disappointing (see attached specific comments she made).

A roll call vote was called on the original motion to move administrative functions delineated under ODCP access management policy and allowed under Administrative Rule allowed internal to Mid-South no later than October 1, 2008 without an AG opinion. The motion carried by a vote of 11 to 4 with Barr, Brehler, Carter, Copedge, Densmore, DeLeon, Golden, Poleski, VanBelzen, VanDoren, and Showers voting yes, and Bunting, Herl, Mason, and Michalowicz voting no.

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Bunting asked for the information she requested relative to the staff. Mr. VanNorman provided it to her, noting no staff names were listed, just job titles, along with the position descriptions. He added the information should be used internally only.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

Lynn Mason's comments regarding movement of Access/Utilization functions in-house.

- The importance of the issue should require more consideration.
- Timeliness of issue. Item first came up for discussion in 2006 and then came to P & D in February of 08. Why delay? Was decision made by Ex. Director prior to coming before this Board?
- Process used is disappointing at best. Some actions steps didn't occur which led to mistrust, antagonistic behavior, and many questions.
- Legal concerns. Attorney opinions contain words like murky, fine line, "if", alternate suggestions would have been given..No AG opinion sought as requested and no mention of legal issues occurred at Feb. 08 meeting when presented to committee.
- Unsure of true financial consequences. Cost vs. savings? Is this action worth possible consequences?
- No attempt to settle issue in win – win manner with CDRS (long term positive agency to work with, according to documents).
- Will PA2 funds now be used for this purpose?
- Does this fit in MSSAC action plan or long term goals?
- What other services that CDRS provides will be lost? Is there a plan?
- How will records be kept to ensure new plan is working?
- Liability concerns, conflict of interest, oversight feature lost.

Perhaps this action eventually is a foregone conclusion, perhaps not. In any case, the process used to get us to this point is weak at best. I cannot support this action with so many questions unanswered.