

PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

May 21, 2007 – 6:00 p.m.
Michigan High School Athletic Association
1661 Ramblewood Drive
East Lansing, Michigan

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dale Copedge, Chair; Dale Barr; Shirley Carter; Lynn Mason; Jerry Michalowicz; Honey Minkowitz; Jim VanDoren

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jean Golden; Mike Rae

STAFF: Gary VanNorman, Executive Director; Mary Kronquist, Assistant Director; Lori Griffin, Executive Secretary; Jeanne Diver, Quality Assurance Manager

GUESTS: Bruce Hindenach, CDRS; Lisa McCafferty, Ionia County Health Department

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Copedge called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 20, 2007

Ms. Carter moved approval of the Minutes of November 20, 2007 as presented. Mr. VanDoren supported the motion. The motion carried.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no additions or deletions to the Agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

NEW BUSINESS

Board Retreat

Mr. VanNorman reported that six Board members attended the retreat held on April 28th. He stated the Annual Report was a focus of discussion, adding the report is an opportunity to report on positives and reflects what the State wants. He added, however, that it does not address issues such as length of care, clients who drop out of treatment, or are not admitted to treatment.

Mr. VanNorman briefly noted the funding systems Mid-South works with; Block Grant dollars, Medicaid dollars, and PA2 dollars, and that with the funding streams, penetration rates are low, but the population is being served consistently based on the under funded system.

Mr. VanNorman noted significant discussion took place at the retreat surrounding the current state budget crisis, and the possibility of coordinating agencies losing their PA2 dollars, along with the state and federal dollars being flat for around 14 years. He noted more people are indigent and more need services, which means our system is seeing an increase in demand. He asked the question if we (Mid-South) can be the “safety net” for those needing care. The answer was no.

Mr. VanNorman briefly discussed penetration rates, noting all of the CAs rates are pretty much the same, and that the numbers indicate dollars are spent on care, not outreach services.

Turning to the wait list summary, Mr. VanNorman stated almost half of the people screened do not receive treatment due reasons such as availability of programming or the client changes their mind. He noted that if clients could be admitted in a timely manner into treatment, dollars would be exhausted in six months. He stated Mid-South may need to look at funding reductions (as will other CAs) since no one can fund what they need to with the available dollars. Another question to be asked is how the system can be improved for those who receive treatment. And there is another critical issue with the state revamping the continuum of care. Mr. VanNorman stated it can be done, but would most likely necessitate limiting access to care. This could be done by denying access (block grant clients can not appeal), by more rigid utilization management or by limiting access to more expensive services. Mr. VanNorman stated these methods do not benefit clients but rather manage dollars. He also noted Mid-South currently has no recidivism

Program Development Committee Minutes

May 21, 2007

Page 3

caps or could increase the sliding fee scale, all of which would decrease numbers of clients served.

Mr. VanNorman stated system challenges have developed over time. There are many conflicting interests between systems. As an example he noted that many judges and probation officers recommend residential treatment because it is a more controlled environment, and is a more expensive treatment modality.

Mr. VanNorman stated one area to continue in is partnering with other human service agencies. Efficiencies can be gained in this manner, and he noted systems such as mental health, DHS and the courts need partners. He added all need to look at what positive things can be done for clients through partnering.

Mr. VanNorman reported that Don Allen, Director of ODCP, spoke recently and noted the state will focus on three areas: co-occurring disorders; sustaining people in recovery, and alcohol-related vehicle crashes/underage drinking. He also reported that other initiatives are competing for dollars from other systems; Prisoner Reentry, Pharmacological Advancements, Case Management, Reclaiming Futures (Project Weave), and Drug/Juvenile Courts. Mr. VanNorman also stated that if the legislature takes the PA2 dollars for the state budget, current efforts with drug courts, case management and others will cease.

Mr. VanNorman stated the entire Commission needs to put something together for the Program Development Committee to work on over the next several meetings. He added there will also have to be a focus on addressing with ODCP, CDRS, the providers, and clients to design a system responsive to clients and what works for them. Mr. VanNorman stated if these things are done, there will be less recidivism and a reduction in the use of dollars in five years.

Mr. Copedge introduced Mr. Barr, who is an Eaton County Commissioner and the new appointee from Eaton County to the Commission.

Mr. Copedge also stated a Vice Chair for this Committee should be elected in the event he is late or not able to attend. Mr. VanDoren volunteered.

LifeWays Update from November Meeting

Mr. VanNorman reported the expected deficit in Medicaid for LifeWays of approximately \$185,000 did not occur. It was less and was covered by LifeWays using

their ISF. He noted CEI later authorized Mid-South to use approximately \$100,000 for LifeWays. LifeWays asked to have put towards this year.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business brought before the Committee.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Hindenach stated he was pleased to participate in the Retreat, and all ideas brought forth will be a significant change in programming. He added this is long overdue and what is needed is to bring into focus services provided by Mid-South. He also stated Mid-South cannot be all things to all people, and that he expects there will be a lot of heavy lifting over the next few months.

Ms. Mason stated, as a middle school teacher, that she would like to see more involvement with mental health, health departments, or whomever with real stories. She noted prevention is much cheaper than treatment, and the need for a community connection.

Mr. Barr stated he used to be a high school principal and encourages efforts focused on youth.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:27 p.m.