

Region I Mental Health and Substance Abuse Administration
REGION I BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

September 20th, 2011
3:30-5:00 p.m. - PMHC

MINUTES

Members present: Bob Davis and Jann Lawler via Telehealth, Pam Fornander, Jane Morgan, Dr. Guy Wylie

Members absent: Donna DeForge, Brenda Dickinson, Pam Goding, Dr. Susan Schaeffer

Non-members present: Erin Croft, Suzy Davis, Judie Moorehouse, Mia Knotts, Laura Richards, Liz Sizer, and Sharyn Wohlers. Via Telehealth: Sherry Retzlaff and Joan Yekel.

Chair, Dr. Guy Wylie brought the meeting to order at approximately 3:42 p.m. and led those present in recitation of the Serenity Prayer. All members and non-members present introduced themselves.

Approval of Agenda: The meeting agenda was reviewed. Pam Fornander made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Jane Morgan. The Agenda was approved with all present members voting aye.

Minutes of Previous Meeting: The minutes of the previous R1BHAC meeting were previously sent out electronically and reviewed at the meeting. Jane Morgan made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Pam Fornander. The Minutes were approved with all present members voting aye.

Region 1 Staff Changes: Laura Richards advised the committee of staff changes in Region 1 and PMHC. Richards is the new Executive Director for Panhandle Mental Health Center and Regional Administrator for Region 1. Sharyn Wohlers is the new Corporate Compliance Officer for PMHC and Region 1. Wohlers will also serve as the lead person for the electronic health records project and help manage the HRSA Grant. Liz Sizer is the new Youth Coordinator for Region 1. Mia Knotts is the new Region 1 Network Coordinator and will be managing the network of nine providers in Region 1. Suzy Davis is the new Quality Management Coordinator for PMHC and Region 1. Sue Teal is the new Emergency Services Coordinator.

Provider Reports:

- **CrossRoads Resources, LLC (CRR):** Informational worksheets and goals/objectives of the services provided by CrossRoads were included in the meeting packet. Joan Yekel gave the report for CrossRoads. Yekel talked about the CAP (Client Assistance Program), Emergency Community Support, and their Local Crisis Response Team. There is a new orientation handbook that is available to all Counselors at CRR and familiarizes people of the counselors and services/programs available at CRR. CrossRoads has been utilizing the Telehealth services to assist more clients who cannot travel to Chadron or other places for services. Yekel talked about concerns in the Chadron area including three suicides that have already taken place this year. Yekel also reminded everyone that CRR is helping WCHR host the next provider meeting October 20th and the location has changed to Chadron Community Hospital. If you are planning to attend the provider meeting in Chadron, please RSVP to Joan because a light lunch will be served.
- **Panhandle Mental Health Center (PMHC):** Laura Richards and Sharyn Wohlers gave an update for PMHC. Richards advised that she has recently sent an email out to all staff asking them "If you could change one thing about your job, what it would be?" Richards has received some good answers regarding that email and will be working with Leadership and Staff to follow up with these answers along with the new strategic plans that will be mentioned later

in the meeting. Richards challenged R1BHAC Committee Member to email her advice on what they want to see different or what they like about the R1BHAC Meetings. Richards also reported the Jennifer Sibal is going to stay at PMHC as the Access Director and there are two new Mental Health Therapists in the Scottsbluff office, Sarah Bernhardt and Valerie Rudden. Wohlers mentioned that the PMHC office in Sidney is struggling with client numbers and is having a hard time finding receptionists.

PMHC and Region 1 Strategic Plans: Both plans were included in the meeting packets. The main goal for both agencies through the strategic plans is to become the providers of choice. Mia Knotts gave an overview of the Region 1 plan. Suzy Davis covered the PMHC plan. Knotts and Davis explained some of the steps that PMHC and Region 1 are taking to set these goals into motion.

Electronic Health Records (EHR) and HRSA Grant: Sharyn Wohlers distributed a news release from HHS.gov regarding the implementation of health information technology in rural areas. Wohlers announced that PMHC was awarded the HRSA Grant. PMHC is the only organization in NE to receive these funds and the only behavioral health organization out of the 40 grantee organizations. The HRSA Grant consists of \$300,000 dollars each year, for three years. These funds will be used to purchase EHR equipment, install networks, and training for staff. Wohlers was congratulated on this for writing the grant and responding in such short notice, HHS only gave organizations 30 days to respond for the grant. PMHC received software licenses from EBIN in Region 5 and will spearhead this EHR project for other providers in Region 1. Project management will be through Heartland Community Health Network and has plans to have PMHC live by December 27, 2011. Due to a federal guideline of the Electronic Claims Division, certain things need to be in place by January 1, 2012. Wohlers will continue to keep board committee members updated throughout the EHR process.

Youth System Update: Laura Richards introduced Liz Sizer as the Youth Services Coordinator. Sizer plans to keep all the youth services in our region full and moving forward even though youth services throughout the state are currently in disarray. Richards advised that PMHC's Reach Out Foster Care (ROFC) recently had to close because of funding. Sharyn Wohlers and Laura Richards shared their experience when Wohlers testified at the LR 37 Health and Human Services Hearing Sept. 13. LR37 is a legislative resolution that passed during the latest legislative session to investigate what happened with the Child Welfare Reform. Transcripts of the open testimonies can be found on the DHHS Website.

Regional Quality Improvement Team (RQIT) and Trauma Informed Care/Recovery Oriented Care (TIC/ROC): Mia Knotts gave the report on RQIT and advised that it is a quality improvement team. The Division recommended that each region has a RQIT Team and this team was established last October. RQIT has been reviewing the CARF Survey results from our providers and is currently putting together a training manual based on the areas that need improvement in our providers. All providers have been invited to join RQIT and share input and ideas on what barriers and accomplishments have happened in the region so that these may be addressed by RQIT and work with providers as a team. RQIT meets every other Tuesday from 9:00am – 10:00am and can be attended by Telehealth. Laura Richards invited R1BHAC members to join RQIT and explained that their voice would be helpful to this team. Judie Moorehouse represented the Trauma Informed Care/Recovery Oriented Care (TIC/ROC) team and initiative. The purpose of this team is to help all providers be trauma informed and provide this form of care to consumers. Moorehouse distributed the TIC/ROC Charter and Statement of Work and explained that PMHC and Region 1 are the pilots for this project for the entire region. TIC/ROC meets the same Tuesdays as RQIT Team from 10:00am – 10:30am.

Community Input from Committee Members: Laura Richards advised that this will be a standing agenda item for R1BHAC from now on and this time will be reserved to give committee members the chance to share input on what is going on in their committee. Pam Fornander shared information on what is going on in her community of Osh Gosh and talked about a recent suicide that took place there. Fornander stated that she believes that part of the problem is the lack of

behavioral health professionals and services in her area and she would like to help bridge this gap. Richards pointed out that Region 1 offers a Professional Partner program in Osh Gosh and Telehealth is also available at the Osh Gosh Hospital and may be used to give services to that community. It was discussed that communication within our region is key to get the word out for services, groups, trainings, or anything that would be helpful to people in need. Wohlers commented that Q.P.R. (Question, Persuade, Refer) Suicide Prevention Training would be helpful and should be opened up to these communities especially with the recent rise in suicides. Mia Knotts mentioned that Region 1 is working on a LOSS Team which is a suicide survivor team and will be available in the future. Dr. Guy Wylie suggested an online support group for people affected by suicide and will forward that link to anyone who is interested. Jane Morgan advised that NEPSAC would be happy to host any trainings in the future and help to get the word out about trainings and seminars available to the community. Pam Fornander suggested that the Garden County Newspaper would be a good outlet for anyone to post helpful information.

Committee Membership: Mia Knotts advised that this topic is listed on the agenda to review the member list and let the committee know that there are currently 9 members in R1BHAC. Knotts would like to see the membership grow and encouraged members to mention R1BHAC to people that might be interested in being the voice for their community through R1BHAC.

Coordination Updates:

- **Emergency System-** Mia Knotts gave an update on the Emergency System. Knotts talked about one of the issues this program is currently facing and working on getting someone discharged that has been in the program for two years.

Directors Report: Laura Richards distributed and overviewed the Directors Report. Some of the topics listed on the report included: HRSA Grant information, LR37 Hearing, and the NMT meeting in North Platte that members from the Regional Administrative Team attended. Richards talked about the meeting and topics that took place September 16th with Sheri Dawson, the new Administrator of Community-based Services at DHHS. Richards also gave an update on the Boys and Girls Home Settlement that PMHC is working on and an overview on the 2011 SAMHSA Block Grant and an executive summary for this grant was included in the packets.

Recommendations to the Governing Board: Jann Lawler made a motion that the Region 1 Advisory Committee would like the Governing Board to consider support of marketing throughout the region, seconded by Bob Davis. The motion was approved with all present members voting aye. Jane Morgan made a motion to amend the previous motion to modify the wording of the request to the Regional Governing Board to read "The Region 1 Advisory Committee would like the Governing Board to consider support of increased awareness throughout the Region". This motion was seconded by Bob Davis and the motion was approved with all present members voting aye.

Questions from Members:

- Dr. Guy Wylie questioned the next election date for the R1BHAC Committee. Wohlers stated that she believed that it was around the beginning of the next year.

Questions from Non-Members:

- None

The next regular meeting is scheduled for November 22, 2011, in the PMHC Board Room, 3:30-5:00 p.m

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:10 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by,

Erin Croft