

Eastern Panhandle Health & Human Services Collaborative
Behavioral Health Workgroup
11/4/09



Present: Dotti Orndorff, Jackie Columbia, Jeanne Marzell, Rick Coffenbarger, Caren Forestandi, Nancy Schmitt, Shamus Cleveland, Debbie Flowers.

Minutes: Read and corrected - Jackie noted she was not the one who was to call Pete.

Agenda Items:

Shamus Cleveland, a representative of the WV Prevention Resource Center, distributed a handout describing the cost of substance abuse in WV, and discussed the services provided by his organization and their efforts to obtain funding. Shamus noted that each county needs to be part of the partnership. He presented a Power Point presentation at the Morgan County Partnership for legislators and others to show the full scope of substance abuse issues statewide. He noted that the Governor has appointed 40 members to promote community well-being who meet in Charleston. County Community Partnerships are being developed.

A discussion ensued concerning issues surrounding travel to Charleston and the perceived unbalance in the distribution of funds to counties in need of services. Jeanne mentioned that this group may want to consider becoming part of the CCP.

Jeanne noted that an adolescent program is needed but the schools need to be involved. The group discussed substance abuse services currently in place.

Martinsburg Children's Zone (based on Harlem's Children's Zone), the premise of which is to conjoin resources to reach neighborhoods and provide kids with services and opportunities they do not have. They are focusing on the city of Martinsburg and are trying to secure a grant. The United Way is providing some of the resources. Shamus noted block captains are being gathered to help kids redirect and refocus.

Memo from Trina Bartlett, about newly appointed steering committee member, Teresa Warnick, was provided for review and comment. Teresa is now the director of the Family Resource Network. According to the memo, Teresa is being appointed as “staff” to a number of work groups, including Behavioral Health. At this point, it seems unclear what Teresa’s role will be or how her participation will benefit the efforts of this group.

Workplan:

The group discussed the effectiveness of this group and considered options concerning others who should be included, the possibility of redirecting the focus and applying for grant money. Attendance and participation was discussed. Suggestions included law enforcement, school, county commissioner, legal aid, as well as a representative from EastRidge. It was noted that efforts to include others in this group have been ineffective at times due to a number of factors outside our control. Debbie feels that each of us should take responsibility for involving others who should attend.

Jackie wonders if someone else might be more effective as the group chair. She noted we need to adhere to an agenda and time frame. E-mailing minutes may increase attendance. We need some direction, goals and a focus. We talked about offering workshops but first we need to find out what kinds of trainings are needed. Nancy will be attending a meeting in Pipestem next week and asked whether there was anything she could share about our efforts. Jackie suggested she share the general purpose and scope of the group.

Agency Announcements:

Jackie shared the “Activities/Announcements” notice from Trina which included a description of the HHSC meeting slated for 11-6. Other upcoming events were also included in the notice.

Next meeting: The Behavioral Health Workgroup will hold its next meeting on December 2, 2009, from 9-11 A.M. at Shenandoah Community Health, Behavioral Health Unit Conference Room.

Respectfully submitted:

Dotti Toland-Orndorff