DAUPHIN COUNTY MH/ID PROGRAM BOARD
MEETING MINUTES AND PLANNER

MEETING DATE: March 29, 2012
MEETING PLACE: CMU, 1100 South Cameron Street, Harrisburg

ATTENDANCE:
Board Members: Commissioner Hartwick, Sherri Smith, Matthew Stinner, Judy Vercher

Staff: Dan Eisenhauer, Rose Schultz, Shirley Keith Knox, Paul Geffert, Martin Yespy, Adam Wiener, Cris Altieri, Renee Robison

Guests: Matt Kopetchny, CMU; Dan Sausman, CMU; Linda London, Goodwill, Leah Hannah, Norm Witman

MEETING GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:

- Education Topic
- Administrator’s Report
- Committee Reports
- Fiscal Report
- Community Input

DECISIONS:

- Due to not having a quorum, approval of the January 26, 2012, Advisory Board Minutes is deferred until the next meeting

ACTION TO BE TAKEN:

- None at this time.
NEXT MEETING DATE:
May 31, 2012, at the CMU. The agenda will include a presentation, as well as the Administrator’s Report and Committee Reports.

Welcome and Introductions
Sherri Smith called the meeting to order. Sherri welcomed everyone in attendance, and introductions followed.

Deferment of Approval of January 26, 2012, Board Meeting Minutes
Deferred to the next meeting due to not having a quorum.

Administrator’s Report
The following report summarizes major MH/ID program concerns, updates and initiatives over the past two months:

- County MH and ID staff continue our collaboration to develop strategies to improve service delivery for persons diagnosed with both an intellectual disability and mental illness.
- Our program staff has begun the FY 12-13 contracting process.
- Dauphin County Human Services finalized a cross-systems Policy & Procedure that addresses how we work with consumers and family members that are being served by more than one agency or system. We conducted a training of more than 75 supervisors and management staff from AAA, CYS, CMU, D & A, JPO, MH/ID/EI, so that we can implement the policy effective 7/1/12.

Crisis Intervention:

- The Crisis Intervention Program had our quarterly Corporate Compliance Committee meeting. No issues were found with billing or Crisis records.
- Crisis is piloting an electronic case notes system with several staff. After the testing and pilot is completed, we will implement the system for all Crisis staff.

ID Program Issues:

- Staff completed a survey and published a report about the impact of the ODP across-the-board rate cut effective 11/15/11. The Executive summary is that most providers experienced a significant loss of revenue and had to lay off significant numbers of staff, increase responsibilities to remaining staff, eliminate or reduce fringe benefits to staff, and in many cases, curtail accepting new referrals for services.
- The ID Administrative Office was reviewed by ODP for compliance with various requirements in our contract with ODP for our ID Waiver administration. We did well in most areas.
- We anticipate some changes in the ODP waivers as a result of ODP’s most recent Waiver renewal submission to CMS. We expect to hear more from the Department about operational changes after CMS formally responds.
MH Program Issues:

- Dauphin County and CABHC HealthChoices Reinvestment proposals are being finalized for submission to OMHSAS.
- The MH Annual Plan update Public Hearing is Wednesday April 11th at 12:00 noon at 1100 South Cameron Street.
- The Wellness Year Kick-off is on April 30th.
- Summer Therapeutic Activities Program planning is underway in children’s MH.
- The Local Housing Options Team re-established with MH agencies and private landlords renting to MH folks and a meeting about the landlord/tenant protocol is being planned as well as an in-service for case managers on understanding public housing.

EI Program:

- EI staff continues to work on training with providers to improve coaching and clinical interventions.
- Our child count is higher than anticipated, which means we are serving more children than we anticipated, but we also need to resolve the funding to support those services with assistance from OCDEL.

Budget Updates:

- For FY 11-12 we received mid-year budget cuts totaling $205,272 in our ID program, and $144,508 in the MH Program. The EI Program will need additional base funding from OCDEL this FY due to increases in number of children served.
- Governor Corbett presented his FY 12-13 Budget Proposal on February 7, 2011. It includes a “Human Services Block Grant” proposal which proposes to combine Mental Health Base funds, Intellectual Disability Base funds, Behavioral Health Services Initiative MH and Drug and Alcohol funds, Homeless Assistance Program Funds, Human Services Development Funds, and Children and Youth Special Grant funds into a single funding stream under county control. However, DPW proposes to reduce funding for each of those funding streams by 20% compared to current funding levels. The impact to Dauphin County MH/ID and HAP is a reduction of about 5.3 million dollars.
- We have two main concerns about the proposal 1) the 20% cut is drastic and will cause great harm to many people we serve, and 2) no details have been released yet about how the HS Block Grant would be implemented, nor the requirements for the use of the funds.
- Commissioner Hartwick has been a leader of the statewide County Association efforts to restore the funding and to assist in reasonable solutions to a Block Grant approach versus the Department’s proposal. Our advocacy efforts are centered on working with our County Commissioners Association of PA, as well as direct efforts with the Corbett Administration and DPW officials.
- A community forum is scheduled for Monday, April 9th at 6 p.m. at the CMU for consumers and family members and providers to hear more about this issue and to be able to talk about the potential impact on services. Matt Stinner stated that he did not realize how bad this budget proposal really is. People wanting to write letters to the
legislators and attending rallies is appropriate. Dan noted that County Civil Service employees cannot lobby and the Dauphin County Commissioners have to approve activities of County employees. The impacts of this budget would vary from county to county. Dan is creating a listserve and will also forward this to Sherri Smith. Sherri thanked Dan for his leadership and noted that many times the public isn’t aware and legislators aren’t aware of what the impacts would be.

Commissioner Hartwick stated that now is a critical time to step forward and play an advocacy role. It seems as though the State is trying to find the easiest way to fill the holes in the budget so the budget is driving policy decisions. The State shouldn’t reduce at the service delivery level. Significant recommendations will be made to the State to make internal cuts to DPW. He noted that over 1000 inmates, who are incarcerated in another state, will be parolees within the next year and with this budget proposal, these people would not be able to be served well. Commissioner Hartwick stated the Commissioners are prepared to make very difficult decisions. This proposed budget, if passed, will cripple system reform and set back the system 100 years. Those talking to providers/consumers need people to communicate effectively. Commissioner Hartwick noted that advocacy week starts April 9. Future support of legislators needs to be evaluated. There should be consistent advocacy every day. Dan stated that materials he had used for the United Way concerning this can be provided. Sherri Smith noted that education is also suffering significant cuts. She feels that kids with disabilities in schools won’t be able to get the services they need. Sherri stated that any information she receives she will also distribute to other superintendents. We have a duty to make sure people know what is happening and we can’t continue to allow systems to break down. The difficulty is that there will be hundreds of people who will lose services. Consumer voices are important for the legislators to hear.

**Education Topic - Intellectual Disabilities Employee Initiatives Update – Adam Weiner**

Adam noted that the system has changed whereas people with ID had lived in institutions before and now are living in community group homes. People with ID are doing real work for real wages and have meaningful work for a meaningful life. Teachers are educating people with ID and not segregating them.

Employment First is an option for people we support and there are lots of strategies that are used to help gain employment. The Employment First Group partners with providers such as Goodwill and CIT, local businesses, and also representatives from school districts. Customized employment is using discovery methods to know the person and using networking. This group also is getting the ID folks to have the opportunity for a post-secondary education. These types of services are services that cost the least, but can serve many people.

**Committee Reports**

*Adult Mental Health Committee* – Judy Vercher – The Minutes from the January 23, 2012, meeting were distributed.

Dauphin County is proposing five reinvestment projects, which were discussed in the minutes. Jennifer Simonetti from NHS’s Outpatient Program presented on their telepsychiatry program.
Children’s Mental Health Committee – Sherri Smith – The Minutes from March 15, 2012, were distributed.

This Committee continues to review service area assessments for BHRS services. The RTF update was distributed, and discussed. The goal of surpassing the use of RTF’s by 50% has been surpassed. The goal for the average length of stay is 180 days.

Intellectual Disabilities Committee – Shirley Keith Knox -- The Minutes from February 7, 2012, and March 6, 2012, meetings were distributed. There are still some challenges in obtaining dental services in the community. All individuals involved in the ID system will be receiving a survey regarding dental services to determine needs. A Fireside Chat is scheduled April 19 at the CMU to discuss with Kevin Friel the impact of changes in ODP.

Further discussion is needed related to consumer involvement in the Criminal Justice System. Families are unsure how the system works. The ID Program will host a “Teachback” on the topic of “What can you expect when your family member moves into a residential setting”. Parents/Family members will be asked to serve on the teachback panel that will be held for residential and service coordination staff.

Matt Stinner reported that he will be going to Wilkes Barre representing people with disabilities to talk to a representative of Governor Corbett’s office in regard to the budget cuts.

Nominating Committee – Judy Vercher – A person has submitted their application to be on the MH/ID Advisory Board. Their information was emailed to the Board and it is also in the packet today. An email vote will be taken due to not having a quorum.

Executive Committee – This committee has not met since October 29, 2010.

Fiscal Report
Paul Geffert distributed the Budget vs. Expenses report by cost center. 2011-2012 – budget cuts of $205,000 in the ID Program and $145,000 in the MH program. Paul noted that a lot of providers had provided their budgets under budget.

Community Input and Other Comments

Adjournment

There were no additional comments or announcements, and the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be held May 31, 2012, at the CMU.