

Vocational Subcommittee Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2006

*Attending:* Nancy Rapp, Mike Ahlers, Jill Nelson, Diana Compton, Cheryl Runyan, David Hanson, Linda Carlson, Galen Smith, Sitka Stueve, Jim Deister, Wes Cole, Dennis Webb, Chris Zuercher, Stacy Nichols, and Barbara Correll. Guest: Ashley Riley

*Absent:* Brenda Richardson, Dan Hallacy, Bart Chaney

*The mission of the vocational subcommittee is to make recommendations to the Governor's Mental Health Planning Council which helps identify barriers and create opportunities in order for persons with SPND to gain competitive employment.*

Updates from the GMHPC, Transformation Sub-Committee & the State

Wes discussed the impact of the NAMI Report and a general discussion ensued regarding the implications of the report. A discussion around the importance of finding a NAMI Representative & Consumer Representative to round-out our committee was discussed. Sitka volunteered to attend a local NAMI Meeting and actively recruit several potential committee members & the task of identifying several potential consumer members was assumed by the rest of the committee to bring names to the July meeting.

Wes emphasized that the Transformation Subcommittee will attempt to coordinate the direction/work of the other subcommittee's working under the umbrella of the G.M.H.P.C. This committee, comprised of other subcommittee chairs & other invested organizations such as, NAMI & KEYS for Networking, is actively working on cross-cutting goals of all the committees and how they relate to the President's Freedom Commission Goals and Directions.

Sitka & Wes discussed that transformation of the systems is the central goal for federal & state entities. There is \$808,000.00 earmarked to be divided among agencies for transformation in the upcoming 2007 fiscal year.

Nancy passed out a document which outlines the criteria for CMHC who want to implement Supported Employment programs. She stated that the SE Model is still the model of choice which the state of Kansas is encouraging centers to utilize to help consumers find employment.

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Nancy also outlined a new program which has been discussed with CSS Directors called, "Centers of Excellence". This program will highlight centers which have obtained & maintain high fidelity to the SE Model throughout the state of Kansas within their CMH settings.

Lastly, Nancy outlined a proposal being discussed regarding "Presumptive Disability". In this proposal, consumers who appear eligible for benefits will be assessed & given benefits within 45 days of applying for them. The potential down-side to this program may be people who are deemed to be ineligible will not receive General Assistance or Medicaid benefits, and; therefore maybe left with no resources.

*Taskforce Members & Areas of Concern*

<i>#</i>	<i>Taskforce Area</i>	<i>Members</i>
1	Implementing Evidence-Based Practices, State-wide	<b>Linda Carlson</b> , David Hanson, Mike Ahlers, Nancy Rapp, Dianna Compton
2	Transition Youth	<b>Jim Deister</b> , Diana Compton, Bart Chaney, Barbara Correll
3	Increasing Employer Awareness of Supported Employment & Hiring Consumers	<b>Jill Nelson</b> , Galen Smith, Stacy Nichols, Ashley Riley
4	Improving Follow-Along Supports	<b>Sitka Stueve</b> , Cheryl Runyan, Dennis Webb, Chris Zuecher
5	Assuring training across the state, addressing areas of consistency of services and proper mental health training	<b>Mike Ahlers</b> , Linda Carlson, Galen Smith

*\*Chair of the committee is in bold*

Each of the taskforces met in their individual groups for an hour to actively collaborate on their respective areas of concern. After a brief intermission, the Subcommittee as a whole convened to review & brainstorm each area together.

***If you are the Chairperson (in bold above), please contact each of your taskforce members with a brief summary of what was discussed regarding your area of concern and what next steps need to be completed by the members to be prepared for the taskforce meeting in July.***

*Upcoming Vocational Sub-committee 2006 Meetings Sites & Dates:*

*9:00 am - Noon*

*July 13<sup>th</sup>, Area MHC in Dodge, Dee*

*October 12<sup>th</sup>, Johnson County MHC, Shawnee, David*