

GMHSPC AGING SUB-COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 27, 2004

Present: Wes Cole, Annette Graham, Bryce Miller, Nancy Trout, Steve Feinstein, Karen Ford Manza, Valerie Merrow, Mary Cameran, Cornelia Jeffery.

Absent: Rosemary Mohr, Mike Hammond.

The first meeting of the GMHSPC Aging sub-committee met August 27, 2004, at the Topeka/Shawnee Public Library. The primary focus of the meeting was on the organization of the sub-committee. It was agreed that the co-chairs of the group are Nancy Trout and Rosemary Mohr. Rosemary was out of town and not able to attend today's meeting. It was noted there is still a need to have consumer and minority representation on the committee. Nancy will follow up with Rosemary about recommendations. A list of the committee members and their email addresses is attached to these minutes.

Nancy Trout provided the group with some historical information about an earlier task force in the late 1980's and early 90's that was formed to look at how mental health services were provided to persons in the aging population and how to advocate for their needs. From this the Aging Coalition was formed in 1998. This coalition has done a number of worthwhile projects, most recently providing training to CMHC case managers and AAA case managers about the mental health needs of aging persons.

Bryce talked about the Aging Summit that was held this year in conjunction with the Governor's Conference on Aging. He recommended that DOA and MH partner in future conferences and have additional mental health/aging topics addressed in the break-out sessions. Bryce recently attended a conference in Pittsburgh, PA. and provided the committee members with information from the conference about the mental health and aging work that is being done in Colorado Springs, Co.

The committee will be developing a 5-year plan. A number of ideas, issues, and concerns about the needs of persons in the aging population were discussed at today's meeting including:

- Education of medical professionals;
- Identify the aging population for each mental health center to plan for service provision and project future needs;
- Look at what other existing groups/entities in the State are already doing and coordinate efforts;
- Need to look at what other state's are doing in this area; Nancy mentioned that the state of Michigan has done a lot of work with MI and Aging.

The sub-committee will need to provide a presentation to the Governor and the Secretary of SRS in November. Bryce volunteered to put together a bulleted list of things to be addressed in the presentation and he will circulate it to the members of the committee for their in-put.

The next meeting is scheduled for September 24, 2004, at 2:00 p.m. in the Menninger Room of the Topeka/Shawnee Public Library.

GMHSPC AGING SUB-COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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