

**GOVERNOR'S MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES PLANNING COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES: Sept. 14, 2005
Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library
9-3**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Wes Cole, Jim Deister, Marlan Ratzlaff, Paul Turnbull, Scott Jackson, Linda Witten, Walt Hill, Jane Adams, Roy Menninger, Jo Lowe, Cherie Bledsoe, Mary Beth Kidd, Tom Ward, Bobbie Rine, Kimberly Roady, Fran Seymour-Hunter

Ex-Officio: Denise Baynham, Valerie Merrow, and Karen Ford Manza

MEMBERS ABSENT Excused: Melba Sutton, Norma Phillips, Linda Geier, Rose Mary Mohr, Gary Parker, Patricia Long, Roger Hayden, Steve Erikson

MEMBERS ABSENT Unexcused: Mary Vilmer

SRS STAFF PRESENT: Becky Rinehart, Kathy Harmon

Guests Present: See attached sheet

1. WELCOME/CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

Wes Cole, Council Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:00 am. The council and guests in attendance introduced themselves. Wes Cole told the group that he is excited about the new subcommittee on transformation that is being formed. He has appointed Mike Hammond (Association of Community Mental Health Centers) and Jane Adams (Keys for Networking) to be co-chairs. The council will be receiving more information on this new subcommittee in the upcoming weeks.

- 2. LAST MEETING MINUTES:** Jo Lowe moved and Tom Ward seconded that the minutes from July 2005 be approved with one correction. Motion carried and July meeting minutes approved. Minutes are placed on the website after approval.
(www.srskansas.org/hcp/mhsip/index.html)

3. REVIEW OF AGENDA ITEMS

TOPIC:

Updates on Kansas' Response to Hurricane Katrina

Kathy Harmon gave an update on the Kansas All Hazards Behavioral Health (KAHBH) response in Kansas following the Hurricane Katrina disaster. As soon as the effects of the hurricane were realized, alerts went out across the state and people began to respond. On September 1st, all 29 Community Mental Health Centers and the state-funded Substance Abuse Treatment agencies were put on alert and asked to contact their local American Red Cross chapter, provide information concerning services that their agency provided, and coordinate their participation at the area ARC resources center. The Governor declared an emergency and enacted the emergency response, putting into effect the KAHBH plan. The Governor declared that all evacuees arriving in Kansas that

www.srskansas.org/hcp/mhsip/index/html

<http://www.srskansas.org/hcp/mhsatr/MHmain.htm>

were eligible would be treated as residents of the state, and all benefits would be extended to them as such. Shelters were set up in Topeka, Wichita, and Kansas City with the expectation that up to 5,000 evacuees might be coming to Kansas. State agencies began meeting daily to coordinate response activities and disseminate knowledge related to specific programs. SRS began daily meetings for the units affected to update and coordinate with each other. Daily briefings went out to all SRS staff. The All-hazard response from KAHBH included the list serve mailings of articles, information, press releases and "Fast Facts" that were pertinent to anyone working with the evacuees, first responders and included self help tips.

Last weekend, Kansas was notified it would not be an evacuation state after all. It is possible that Kansas will make application to FEMA for crisis counseling. If so, it would likely be a "piggyback" application on that of Mississippi. There are 841 Households of self evacuated families so far, and they are trying to get an accurate count. It is possible that county or regional applications may be made. Kathy also handed out a copy of the updates to the All-Hazards Behavioral Response Plan. She invited everyone to attend the All-Hazards Behavioral Health Symposium Oct. 6 & 7 in Salina. (A copy of the brochure is included in the back of the block grant application for FY 06)

Ira Stamm, an area private practice psychologist, was invited to speak about his experiences and he described a family he had worked with. He also told the group that several families had come to Topeka on their own and were staying with family. He remarked that the trauma children saw could be the most difficult problem for the children to deal with in the future, however the children he saw seemed to be handling the trauma and the new situation in a healthy manner.

The GMHSPC Children's Subcommittee presented the council with information on the children's mental health services in Kansas.

TOPIC:

Overview of Children's Services- Krista Morris

Krista Morris (formerly Cowger) lead the group in a puzzle task, and everyone found this quite interesting. She told everyone that these types of activities not only helped children learn to think outside the box, but to also learn communication and social skills in working together to solve them. In the handouts, Krista helped the council and visitors walk through parts of the Community based services in place for children of Kansas. She also explained who the SED children are by way of the definition in Kansas and a child having an SED and/or being on the SED waiver.

TOPIC:

Levels V & VI and Institutes of Mental Disorders (IMDs)- Brad Kirmer

Brad Kirmer is the Acting Team Leader for the Children's Team at SRS MH. The mental health authority took oversight of the behavioral health facilities in Kansas as of July 1, 1, 2005, so all the Level five and six facilities are now under mental health. Previously they had been under the purview of CFS. Brad explained to the group the difference between

the different levels, and how the future Medicaid changes may affect the system. In the future it is hoped they will no longer be classified as IMDs.

TOPIC:

SRS MH FS

Chris Sego and Ron Pavelka spoke to the group about the SRS MH Field Staff located throughout the state. They handed out a listing of all the contact information for the group on the field staff members and their areas. The list also included the basic duties of the field staff. In short, they monitor community mental health services across the state and work with consumers and families to ensure that they are receiving the services needed, and help to address any issues in the field. They also assist with policy making at central office. They do licensing and regulations and are a part of the communities they live and work in.

TOPIC:

Private Practice- Dr. Wes Jones

Dr. Jones, the chair of the children's subcommittee, told the group he has been in part-time private practice for 25 years. There is no database or other way to gather data about private practitioners in Kansas. He handed out a list of the numbers of licensed practitioners listed with the Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board (BSRB) in Kansas. This does not mean they are in private practice, as all have to have a license whether in private practice, at a university, or at a mental health center, etc. The list is simply those who have a license in the state. There are not as many in private practice as there used to be, mainly due to managed care. There has been conversation in Kansas about opening the medical card to private practitioners, but this is an area that still needs to be looked at closely.

11:45- 12:30 Lunch

TOPIC:

Children's Resources:

Keys for Networking, Disability Rights Center, NAMI, and Families Together

Information from each of the advocacy groups was handed out. All groups had representatives there to speak, and each gave contact information for future reference. The Disability Rights Center, which was formerly KAPS have recently moved to a location closer to downtown. Their clients are the person with the disability, and they receive federal funding to investigate abuse, neglect and exploitation of persons with disabilities. They provide disability rights advocacy.

Families Together is the parent training and information center for Kansas. One of the things they do is train people to be volunteer advocates for children in special education programs. They are staffed by parents that are education advocates themselves.

Keys for Networking also hire parents so that callers know the person on the line understands what they are going through. They have a new literacy program where they take books into homes, in both English and Spanish for parents and children to read

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together. This has also been a good way for them to get to know the people in the community better and to eventually gain trust and access to the problems in the community.

NAMI also recognizes the power of peer relationships in their programs. They have support groups and offer classes in their affiliate locations.

TOPIC:

Family Panel

The family panel gave the group insight into their challenges and difficulties. As well as the relief they have found through support of other parents and the services they have received from numerous organizations. All expressed the difficulty they had in finding what was available at the time they first needed it. Several of the families handed out sheets with information.

Additional Items:

None at this time

Public Comment:

There was no public comment heard.

NEXT GMHSPC MEETING:

The next regular meeting will be held on October 5, 2005 at the SRS Learning Center Room D, from 9-3.

The annual reports will be presented to the secretary of SRS on November 17, at the Juvenile Justice Authority.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 3:00 pm

GMHSPC Meeting

Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library, Topeka, KS

GUESTS PRESENT 09-14-05

NAME	REPRESENTING
Ira Stamm	Self
Chris Sego	SRS MH Field Staff
Leslie Rutschmann	"
Ron Pavelka	"
Pam McDiffett	SRS MH
Krista Morris	"
Brad Kirmer	"
Nancy Rapp	"
Cornelia Jeffery	"
Pamela Keller	SRS HCP CSS
Dr. Wes Jones	MHC of East Central Kansas; Chair- Children's Subcommittee
Lee Flamik	LSH
Diane Todd	"
Randy Bowman	JJA
Richard Archer	Prairie View
Patrick Woods	Governor's Office
Jo Ann Howley	NAMI
Jane McIrvin	"
Kathy Byrnes	JCMHC
Kelly Sommers	Cenpatico
Jolene Parmenter	RMHF
Mariam Turnbull	Self
Joyce Dutton	Parent
Randall Whitley	Family
Gail Whitley	Parent
Stephanie Nipper	"
Theresa Nelson	Parent
Barb Krieg	Urban Parent