SRI TASK GROUP MEETING MINUTES
December 20, 2006
10am – 12:30 pm

Present: Brian Allen, Frank Anselmo, Melissa Black, Mary Lynn Clarke, Carroll Cradock, Linda Denson, Heather Eagleton-Helmy (representing Janet Stover), Brian James, Frank Kopel, Tony Kopera, Nanette Larson, Sandy Lewis, Orville Mercer, Viviana Ploper, Chris Power, Lora Thomas, Frank Ware, Tony Zipple

Absent: Salim Al-Nurridin, Kim Barnes, Mike Boyle, Luberta Connor, Kurt Deweese, Frederica Garnett, Doug Kolasinski, Cheryl Lietz, Lena Raimondo, Cynthia Riseman, Angie Sidles, Janet Stover, Hayward Suggs, Donald Wells

Guests: Terry Carmichael, George Horvanec, Ed Marston

DMH Staff: Brittan Harris, Jackie Manker, Bob Vyverberg

Consultants: None

HANDOUTS:
Agenda
SRI Task Group Draft Minutes November 15, 2006
SRI Task Group Draft Minutes Special Meeting December 1, 2006
SRI C&A Committee Report, December 20, 2006

REVIEW OF MINUTES
Both sets of minutes were accepted with modifications.

UPDATE ON WORKGROUPS
Child and Adolescent Issues Workgroup (Chairs: Viviana Ploper and Ed Marston)
Viviana Ploper introduced Ed Marston, Ph.D. from Grand Prairie Services, who co-chairs the Child and Adolescent SRI Workgroup with her. He will replace her on the SRI Task Group. V. Ploper presented the workgroup report summarizing their meetings of November 28th and December 15th. The meetings included input from consumer representatives from McHenry County. The charge of the workgroup is to review the impact that the state’s FFS transition will have on access to services for children and adolescents. The workgroup identified four major areas of concern: 1) Several principles of care should drive the vision for a system of care approach to services, 2) Fiscal and resource viability must be designed to support transition and community care expectations before implementation of FFS for children and adolescents, 3) Client transition plan, and 4) Rule 132. The workgroup will next look at the Access and Eligibility Workgroup’s materials and Rule 132.

Services Update (Reported by Jackie Manker)
The revised Rule 132 was filed with the Secretary of State on December 1, 2006; the comment period will expire January 16, 2007. Community training on the changes is in development and is anticipated to take place in February 2007.

The state submitted responses to federal CMS questions on the State Plan Amendment last week. CMS must act within 90 days or the amendment will automatically be approved. The state anticipates that CMS will respond with more clarifying questions.

The Services Workgroup has not met since August as they completed their scope of work.

**Access and Eligibility Workgroup (Chair: Sandy Lewis)**

Sandy Lewis noted that the Access and Eligibility Workgroup’s has completed their scope of work and is on hiatus pending further direction.

Tony Kopera asked who would perform the impact assessment of their proposals. Carroll Cradock asked if regional differences would be included in such as assessment. Chris Power agreed that such impact analyses are important but DMH and Parker Dennison have many more urgent priorities to complete in the next six months. There is a limited quantity of resources available in the Division and the primary aim must be to create a working system and minimize disruptions. S. Lewis questioned how these analyses would work without dedicated resources and expertise, especially since the current data system may not collect all of the needed information. Linda Denson questioned the system’s service capacity.

Frank Anselmo stated the need for analyses of critical components, such as coordination of benefits, Rule 132 changes, and cash flow scenarios. What analyses could be performed with tools already available? Frank Ware felt the site visit consultation on coordination of benefits and Rule changes was hugely helpful. Chris Power agreed that the lessons learned and tools used in these site visits could be helpful to other agencies. DMH must make some policy decisions and prioritize activities.

**Financial Workgroup (presented by Chris Power)**

The rates subgroup will meet again in January 2007. A contracting subgroup will be formed in January 2007 to give feedback on the FY08 contract.

**SASS ADULT RECOVERY**

Frank Kopel presented on the current status of the Screening Assessment and Support Services Adult Recovery (SASSAR) initiative. It is HFS claims experience (using actual DMH claims data) that 50% of those in inpatient psychiatric care do not have a relationship with a community mental health provider. The goal of the initiative is to ensure those presenting to hospital emergency rooms are screened for alternative care in the community and to ensure this linkage takes place. The proposed population is Medicaid clients and affected hospitals would be those with emergency rooms that are certified to provide psychiatric care. HFS will fund the first 30 days of community services for these clients. HFS anticipates a cost savings on the inpatient side, though this would be redirected into community services.

HFS and DHS held a meeting on Monday with a focus group of community stakeholders (providers, trade groups, consumers) regarding SASSAR. DMH Recovery Specialists led consumer breakout teams to give feedback on their experiences. DMH is summarizing the
consumer feedback received during this meeting. There will be public meetings on January 17th in Chicago and January 24th in Springfield.

Orville Mercer expressed concerns that the proposed initial encounter rate for this service is lower than the SASS C&A rate since the adult population can demand just as many hours of linkage work. Does the system have the capacity to serve the potential influx of new clients? Brian Allen asked if the service would be opened beyond hospitals with certified psychiatric beds since clients in rural areas present to their local hospitals even if they don’t have certified psychiatric beds. C. Cradock expressed concerns that many consumers relapse because they are unable to access the care they need post discharge and that they need long-term outpatient care specific to their condition. L. Denson was interested in consumer access to services, especially in rural areas and the crisis stabilization capacity of the system. How many ER presentations are simply to get medications refilled? F. Anselmo requested an impact analysis regarding the cost to the system and resources needed to fund services past the initial 30 days HFS is funding to clients new to the system. V. Ploper requested the consideration of SASS Wrap funding like child and adolescents can receive. MaryLynn Clarke stated a major reason for ER presentations is due to a lack of alternatives. Hospitals already must do this kind of screening. Can the system put resources where they are needed instead of adding another layer of screening? T. Kopera felt that DHS might need more funding to cover the increased needs, especially on the DASA side. This should apply to everyone, not just current HFS beneficiaries. V. Ploper asked why HFS would only cover 30 days of services? 30 days is a review point, not a definite limit. Formal questions and responses can be sent to Stephanie Hanko. F. Kopel encouraged interested parties to attend one of the January sessions and submit the above feedback. F. Anselmo applauded the concept and made a formal motion that SASSAR be a permanent agenda item for this group. The motion was approved.

MENTAL HEALTH PLANNING COUNCIL
Linda Denson presented on the status of this group’s activities. Linda Denson and Mary Smith defended the 2007 MH Block Grant application in October. It was accepted with no recommendations, a great accomplishment. The Block Grant Implementation Report 2005 is available on the DMH website. The Planning Council will meet in Springfield in January.

F. Ware reinforced the need for the Planning Council to be informed of issues the SRI Task Group has worked on. The Planning Council is the primary stakeholder advisory board to DMH and will remain so after the FFS conversion.

ASO RFP
This RFP will likely be released in January 2007.

FUTURE MEETINGS:
SRI TASK GROUP
Wednesday, January 17, by teleconference (time pending finalized SASSAR meeting).