

Illinois Mental Health Planning and Advisory Council Minutes

January 9, 2020

Attendees from Council in Chicago:

Fred Friedman, Ron Melka, Meg Lewis, Jennifer McGowen-Tompke,

Attendees from Council by Telephone:

Georgianne Broughton, Ray Connor, Andrea Cooke, Yasmin Diodonet, Thane Dykstra, Sondra Frazier, Belinda Gunning, Dennis Hopkins, Tracy Hopkins, Patty Johnstone, Nanette Larson, Joan Lodge, Pearl Madlock, Margo Rothlisberger, Christine Walker, Dr. Sidney Weissman, John Fallon

Attendees from the Council in Springfield:

David Albert, Shirley Davis, AJ French, Lee Ann Reinert,

Resource Personnel:

Lisa Betz, Brock Dunlap, Irwin Kerzner

Guests:

Chris Stohr from GROW joined in Springfield at 1:30pm.

Call to Order:

The Meeting was called to order by Margo Roethlisberger at 12:30 p.m. Attendance was recorded. It was announced that Tracy Hopkins resigned from the Council and we now need a Treasurer.

Approval of Minutes

Thane Dykstra noted changes brought forth by AJ French that will be added to the minutes of the November 7, 2019 meeting. Andrea Cooke also brought up corrections. Ron Melka moved to approve the amended minutes, Andrea Cooke seconded. All were in favor with no opposition and no abstentions.

Committee Reports:

• **Development Committee Report:**

Ron Melka stated that the committee did not meet and there is no report. A revised roster will be sent out.

• **Adult Inpatient Committee Report:**

Andrea Cooke presented the report from the last meeting of the committee which was held on December 30th. Andrea noted that the information in the report that was distributed to the group is 3 years old. Andrea Cooke shared there are not enough beds and some people end up in jails or prisons. After incarceration is completed it's difficult to get jobs to support themselves. Andrea Cooke also said that Dr. Weissman brought up that some hospitals have observation spaces. A long discussion ensued regarding where one could find the most current information. Fred Friedman asked how much profit hospitals make and how much profit do they need to make. Dr. Weissman said that hospitals subsidize all kinds of interactions, that counties are a back-up to provide medical care and the private sector cannot address the responsibility of the state to provide services when no one else can. Andrea Cooke shared that the Inpatient Committee is having trouble identifying psychiatric bed capacity in non-DMH mental health centers. LeeAnn Rienert shared that DMH doesn't regulate or have statutory authority over community hospitals and suggests seeking information from the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH). Christine Walker inquired about the number of providers, saying she would appreciate having that information. Dr. Weissman noted it is essential that DMH maintains up to date information about non-governmental psychiatric beds. Director Albert shared the importance of this dialogue and asked how we channel the conversation into a more productive one over time. Director Albert inquired if there were thoughts on how DMH can play a role in monitoring the potential systems impact of the loss of community psychiatric hospital beds (due to closures). A member expressed we should have a rapid response to know inpatient capacity, predicting challenges are going to get worse. Co-Chair Shirley Davis requested that the Inpatient Committee come up with some recommendations for the next meeting. Lee Ann Reinert again referenced the information on the IDPH website and Christine Walker specifically referenced the Illinois Hospital Report Card which helps people find hospitals and what services they offer. The link is:

<https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/hfsrb/events/Pages/Board-Meeting--2-25-2020.aspx> .

Christine Walker noted that people look to DMH to become a warehouse of everything you want to know about mental health in Illinois. Director Albert said this conversation is valuable. Lee Ann Reinert shared that the Illinois Health Facilities Review Board requires hospitals to present plans for change, per the Illinois Health Facilities Act. Lee Ann Reinert further stated that she agreed with Dr. Weissman, that this voice is important saying that when she brings up regulatory authority it is for the purpose of helping Council members understand the framework. John Fallon stated that Illinois needs a dashboard for healthcare and mental health care. John Fallon cited the example of utilizing a central database like the criminal justice authority because public and private systems are not currently included together. The Adult Inpatient Committee will review what was discussed today and the report card and bring a formal written recommendation to the council at the next meeting.

- **Justice Committee Report:**

Before giving her report, AJ French stated that she had a process comment. She noted that it was difficult for her to gain the attention of the chairs in order to participate in the meeting. She felt she was put in the position of not being heard or interrupting someone else who was talking. French said participation is also compromised when Council Members fail to identify themselves when speaking. With so many people on the call, it's not always possible to recognize tone of voice. AJ French then presented a verbal report for the Justice Committee meeting that was held on December 5, 2019. The minutes have been drafted but have not yet been approved by Justice Committee members. The Justice Committee report will be distributed to Council Members once complete. The committee discussed competency restoration services, upcoming NOFA, update from the Lt. Governor's office regarding the Justice, Equity and Opportunity (JEO) Report and WRAP in jails and prisons. They reviewed the work that has been completed in 2019 and looked at plans for 2020. Additionally, AJ shared that DMH had written a letter of support for Gift of Voice's application to SAMHSA regarding a Sequential Intercept Mapping (SIM) technical assistance workshop. Jen McGowen-Tompke inquired about the jurisdiction. AJ French said it was for Madison County. On May 1, 2020 there will be a conference called Take Courage: A Conference for Individuals & Families Impacted by Incarceration in Edwardsville, IL.

- **Child & Adolescent Committee Report:**

Margo Rothlisberger shared that the committee has not met and there is no report.

DMH Report:

Lee Ann Reinert announced that Director Knaebe is leaving state service and returning to community service. The new Director was introduced to the group. David Albert accepted his appointment as of January 1, 2020. The group welcomed Mr. Albert as the new Director. Director Albert said that this is an exciting time and that this advisory Council is really important. He thanked council members for all being partners. Mr. Albert's contact information will be forwarded to Thane.

Brock Dunlap reported the budget is currently in a waiting period. The new budget should be released in February.

Lee Ann Reinert reported that, with regards to the Block Grant, Irwin Kerzner has been working on the narrative version of what goes into the federal system developed for posting on the website.

Lee Ann Reinert further reported that a decision was made at the state level to discontinue the conference lines that have been used for these meetings. The advantage is that it can be viewed from individual computers and be used for document sharing. The new platform will be WebEx therefore there will be a new number to call for the meeting beginning with our next meeting in March. Please be sure to check the agenda for the new call-in information.

Lisa Betz reported that a new Administrative Assistant was hired to replace Jennie Melton. Courtney Aidich will now assume the duties. All postings for the website should be directed to Courtney. If assistance is needed to get into the WebEx platform, please contact Courtney.

Shirley Davis inquired about the Inpatient Committee numbers. Andrea Cooke stated that the committee uses Dennis Hopkins' number.

Christine Walker inquired about getting Director Alberts contact information. Lee Ann Reinert stated that it will be shared with Thane so it can be distributed.

Christine Walker inquired about the process for joining committees. Co-chair Margo Rothlisberger stated that when interest is expressed in this meeting and by emailing co-chairs. Christine Walker asked what the best way is to contact Margo Rothlisberger. Margo shared her email address.

Fred Friedman reminded group that money is the center of many discussions and the state has traditionally been slow to pay providers. Brock Dunlap shared that with mental health funding, providers are getting paid relatively on time. There's always been a slight delay. Eight months ago, the delay was four years compared to four weeks now. Brock Dunlap continued to say that HFS is not online. There are delayed payments from MCO's to grantees, but no definitive information.

Jennifer McGowen-Tompke requested an update on the Williams and Colbert RFP's.

Co-chair Rothlisberger requested that DMH thank Director Knaebe for her work throughout the state.

John Fallon inquired about the rationale behind the Williams RFP, saying that we used to receive reports from Brenda Hampton all the time. LeeAnn Reinert shared that Brenda retired. Brock Dunlap shared that some of the struggles transitioning Williams and Colbert people into the community were due to many transitions with various providers. They would evaluate, engage and be set up with different entities. Brock Dunlap reported the William's and Colbert's Consent Decree awards are scheduled to be announced on January 10, 2020. They are working on streamlining services to be more effective and efficient. Director Albert said the award would be to one organization with contractual arrangements for other services. Fred Friedman said that the original desire was to reduce the number of persons living in institutions and asked if the proposal resolved these problems. Brock Dunlap said that a front door diversion project was created for individuals presenting at community hospitals to get them community care. The overall intent is to help individuals avoid getting placed into more restrictive settings than is needed. Director Albert said we have to work around making sure community programs are available, including housing. Fred Friedman thanked the Director for mentioning housing and shared that he is currently in a dispute with his landlord and once piece of advice he has been given is to go to a nursing home for housing. Director Albert said it was helpful to hear and that he believes we all would agree that everyone deserves housing.

IHFS Report:

No report

New Business:

The role of peer operated organizations in the state's mental health system – The group discussed their opinions on the importance of funding organizations that are peer operated as well as peer operated services. AJ French stated that she doesn't know what more she can say that hasn't already been said during other meetings. She says that peer operated organizations are not getting funding opportunities, noting that it becomes almost discriminatory not to offer NOFA's and RFA's. There needs to be equal opportunity. Co-Chair Shirley Davis stated that it would behoove the State to offer bidding opportunities for peer-operated organizations. Christine Walker states it should not just be peer-operated but also peer-intensive and peer-delivered. Pattie Johnstone shared that NAMI funds peer services in the emergency room. Chris Stohr introduced himself and GROW to the Council. Chris Stohr says is a peer to peer organization, active in Illinois until 2015 budget cuts. Chris Stohr pointed out that mutual help (peer) assists professionals in their work and cost less. Fred Friedman says that it seems a dangerous paradigm to do something because it is cheaper.

Fred Friedman inquired about the measure of effectiveness. Chris Stohr said the results are judged by the consumer. Peers are more available and accessible. Pattie Johnstone said these are evidence-based practices that have proven outcomes. John Fallon stated that a lot of studies were done with GROW that show the effectiveness of that particular program. AJ pointed out the next agenda item and asked Brock if he's going to give us some good news and reinstate the \$850,000 was previously cut.

Peer support funding - Brock Dunlap noted that not much can be talked about at this time with regards to the budget. He assured the group that discussions regarding the benefits and challenges of working with peer operated organizations are happening at the state level. AJ French said we appreciate the Division having these discussions and listening to the will of the people, particularly those of us with psychiatric disabilities who operated organizations.

Inventory of Health Care Facilities and Services and Need Determination – Topic was discussed during Adult Inpatient Report. Lee Ann Reinert stated that the latest information can be found on the website mentioned above. Andrea Cooke is hoping to bring the updated information to the next meeting.

Christine Walker asked if the emergency rule regarding seclusion would be addressed by the council. After discussion a motion was made by Fred Friedman to form a committee that will write a response that will be posted on the website. Christine Walker seconded the motion. A vote was taken. All members were in favor with no opposition. DMH abstained. A committee is created. Those interested are to email Margo and Shirley. The committee will decide who amongst them will chair the committee. This action was subsequently overturned because the item was not included on the agenda. Christine Walker was informed of this and was encouraged to provide her individual input.

Meeting schedule for 2020 – Lee Ann Reinert stated that the meetings are running over the two hours that are specified. She would like the meeting to end later to ensure everyone on the council has the chance to be heard. After some discussion it was decided that the end time will be removed from the agenda leaving the timeframe of the meeting open.

Public Comment:

No public comment.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made at 2:40 p.m. by Ron Melka. Motion was seconded by AJ French. Meeting adjourned.

Next Meeting: Scheduled for March 5, 2020 – 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Thane Dykstra
IMHPAC Secretary