

Adult Inpatient Committee Meeting Minutes
Illinois Mental Health Planning and Advisory Council
February 24, 2020

Co-Chairs: Andrea Cooke, MSW
Dennis Hopkins, Psy.D.

Attendees: Andrea Cooke, Shirley Davis, Dennis Hopkins, James Kellermann

Absent: Meredith Kiss (excused), Patty Johnstone (excused), Dan Wasmer (unexcused),
Dr. Sidney Weissman (excused)

Andrea called the meeting to order at 10:02am. Andrea asked if anyone had information for the group. No one had any information. Andrea asked if everyone got the email she had sent out a few minutes earlier about the number of beds and number of IOPs in DuPage County and the Illinois Hospital Report Card. Shirley said that she was looking at the Hospital Report Card, but did not know how to read it. The group discussed how to read it and its contents. James said it has information from 2018. He commented on how the Report Card gives one the number of beds a hospital has. Dennis interjected that it does not give one the number of vacant beds a hospital has. James found that it does give the number of beds of different types that a hospital has, e.g., med-surg, psych; however, one would have to go into every county and into every facility that the county has to find the number of beds and create some sort of data from that.

James said the Report Card does not give you an option to search, for example, for behavioral health beds. He said it would be nice if one were in the ER and could push a button and call up all the beds (vacant) within a certain distance so that you are not sending someone who has a family down to southern Illinois because that is where you found a bed. The group talked about how people wait in the ER while hospital personnel search for a bed. This sometimes can take days.

James talked about when he did crisis work he would have a list of hospitals to look for beds and how when he found none he would have to look into Indiana. He said he spent a lot of time calling hospitals and waiting for call backs. He said it must have been frustrating for the patients. Shirley confided that she has been hospitalized twice in Grand Rapids, Michigan because behavioral health personnel could not find a bed in Illinois.

Because the Hospital Report Card does not show vacancies, one still has to call around for them. The committee discussed how in this day and age, one should be able to pull up a screen which has all this information. James said he thinks it could be done, but no one has ever done it. He said it would take some time and some expertise, but one would think that the state could dedicate some money for this. In addition, it was brought up that we do not know if those psych beds are specialized. James said he could look at counties and their hospitals, but he thinks he would have to look at the individual hospitals' websites to determine if the beds were specialized.

Dennis said it is DMH's purview to enumerate the beds and tell where the vacancies are. They need to put a system into place, he said, where if there was a bed in Carbondale it should be reflected back to DMH staff. They need some kind of system instead of just giving a list which says here are all the potential places. Shirley interjected that the bed search is very difficult for the person who is

experiencing psychosis. James said his recommendation would be for DMH to get one of its IT people to create a database on this and maintain it on a regular basis.

Andrea said that Lee Ann said it is the Department of Public Health's responsibility. Shirley asked the DMH presence at the Adult Inpatient meeting today. Andrea said that the two DMH personnel are not here today and that a third one, Greg Donathan, had resigned from his position and a replacement has not been named.

Andrea said that at least DMH could go to Public Health and get them to do something about this. James Adult Inpatient could put together a grant proposal and have DMH put it in their budget for next year. He said maybe it's something we could put in a line item. Andrea proposed that it go in the Block Grant while it is being written, not just when it is finished and we review it when it is finished. James suggested that at the March 5 IMHPAC meeting we suggest this for the Block Grant. He said it would be astronomically beneficial to patients and clinicians who are trying to find a bed. Dennis said there is a lack of accountability for things like this.

We decided that we would keep bringing this up until something is done about it. This is a major gap in the delivery of services throughout the state. It's not that really that hard to fill if somebody does it right.

Andrea asked if there was anything else anyone wanted to bring up. Shirley said there was something discussed in the last IMHPAC meeting that we should be talking about, but she could not remember. Andrea said she remembered this too, but could not think of it. Andrea maybe this one thing was enough for one meeting and asked if we should adjourn.

James made a motion to adjourn. Shirley seconded it. Andrea adjourned the meeting at 10:47am.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Cooke