

Community Mental Health and Substance Abuse Partnership

4th Quarter 2005 Update

The Partnership was selected to participate in the RWJF LIFP - Comprehensive Health Education Foundation (CHEF) capacity building project. Representatives from CHEF conducted a site visit in December where an organizational assessment was completed. The 24/7 combined services center (detox/ATU) was chosen to be the focus of the CHEF project.

Steering Committee

- The Steering Committee learned about a wraparound services pilot sponsored by Poudre Valley Hospital.
- Marc Condojani, Clinical Training Coordinator for ADAD, gave the Steering Committee a presentation on meth related myths.

Continuum of Care Subcommittee

Erin Hall and consultant Michael Felix continued interviews with key stakeholders regarding the 24/7 combined services center (detox/ATU).

Co-Occurring Effort

The Co-Occurring Leadership and Champions Committees completed the Co-Fit (system audit) and the COMPASS (program audit). Both groups were involved with a site visit by the project coordinator from the Funder's Collaborative and a site visit and training with Dr. Minkoff. The Leadership group is progressing toward a shared vision and agreed upon goals for the co-occurring process. The Champions group is working on developing an important training plan for the group members as well as the staff at their agencies. Both groups have determined that the co-occurring process will initially focus on making the programs more welcoming to clients with mental health and substance abuse problems.

Education Subcommittee

Education efforts for the fourth quarter included:

- Four trainings on changes to the crisis and after-hours response system. Audiences included health and human service agency staff, mental health and substance abuse professionals, and consumers and consumer advocates;
- Two trainings for the faith community entitled "Caring for Your Congregants". There were a total of 69 clergy and lay leaders in attendance;
- A training entitled "Helping Students Connect to Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services" for 30 Student Support Services staff at Front Range Community College;
- A training for 35 Thompson School District counselors on self-harm behaviors in children and adolescents;
- A continuing medical education event with Dr. Jennifer Schneider on "Opioids, Pain Management, and Addiction". There were 11 primary care providers, 6 mental health and substance abuse professionals, and 2 psychiatrists in attendance;
- A training for 42 mental health and substance abuse professionals entitled "Collaboration with Primary Care Providers: Successful Communication and Clinical Strategies".

Evaluations for all education efforts were very positive.

Policy Subcommittee

Carol Plock, Erin Hall, and Ruth Lytle-Barnaby (PVH Foundation, the Partnership's nominating funder), traveled to Washington, DC as part of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Local Initiative Funding Partners Project Connect. Carol, Erin, and Ruth met personally with Marilyn Musgrave and also met with a staff person from the offices of Wayne Allard, Ken Salazar, Mark Udall, and Diana DeGette. All were invited to site visits and some were asked for letters of support when and if the need arises. Marilyn Musgrave committed to a site visit, Ken Salazar will likely come for a site visit, and staff from the offices of Wayne Allard, Diana DeGette, and Mark Udall agreed to a site visit.

Vision

A well coordinated, well funded continuum of mental health and substance abuse services which will achieve our maximum potential for meeting community needs and promote a healthier community through healthier individuals and families.

Goal

Restructure our system of mental health and substance abuse services to significantly improve our responsiveness to the needs of the 60,000 people affected by mental illness and addictive disorders in our community.

Staff

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