

Behavioral Health Consortium Quarterly Meeting

Date and Time: 10/13/20
Location: Virtual Meeting

Topic: Welcome and Introductions

Review of previous meeting notes: Previous Meeting Minutes were approved

Discussion/Comments

Topic: (1) Atlas Presentation

Presenter: Angad Buttar and Leah Kaufman from Shatterproof presented on the Atlas portal that is now included on the HelpisHere Website. This is an assessment and treatment finder which helps people to find treatment that meets their needs. The site allows you to compare treatment options and to also see patient reviews. The website is: <https://www.treatmentatlas.org/>

Topic: (2) Aging Recommendations Presentation

Presenter: Soma from We in the World presented on the findings from the aging recommendations that was outlined as a consortium task. We in the World met with various stakeholders and built out recommendations from the feedback of these stakeholders and looking at national and statewide trends. The recommendations were outlined through using a population health approach.

Topic: (3) Diversion Presentation

Presenter: Lt. Sawchenko working with the Corrections and Law Enforcement Committee presented on the committees' recommendations for Diversion. Lt. Sawchenko went through the various components of a diversion and provided recommended components.

Topic: (4) Public Comment

Harris Marx:

Around 2011, the State of DE was sued by the DOJ Civil Rights Department. A settlement was reached in October 2016. Part of the settlement provided Community Drop-In Centers in each county. The purpose of the settlement was to move from a hospital setting for behavioral health services to such services being based in a community setting. A little over a year ago, the state formed the Behavioral Health Consortium to provide more and better services and resources in the Behavioral Health arena, as well as fight Addiction and Opiates.

Several months ago, the Peer to Peer Subcommittee (of which I am Chair) submitted a proposal to the Access and Treatment Committee to solve a problem that exists throughout the state. That problem is the lack of coverage throughout the state outside of the Community Drop-In Centers and government service centers. Our original proposal called for opening three new Drop-In Centers in each County in different locations than the original Drop-In Centers. This was shot down by the Subcommittee. This revised proposal expands Peer to Peer services in the state outside of the locations of the Drop-in Centers through MOBILE PEER TEAMS based in the existing drop-in centers. These MOBILE PEER TEAMS will do outreach outside of the centers throughout the state

I had not received a reply to the proposal, and it was not on the agenda, so I asked what was going on. The response I got was that people “FROZE” when they read the proposal. So, apparently nothing is happening with the proposal.

What is the most serious problem here? THERE IS AN UNSEEN ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM. This Consortium and the State Behavioral Health Agencies have blinders on. Everyone is out of touch with reality, particularly DSAMH.

RIGHT NOW, THE STATE COULD BE SUED AGAIN BY THE DOJ CIVIL RIGHTS DEPARTMENT FOR VIOLATION OF THE AGREEMENT MADE FOUR YEARS AGO. There are over 10,000 individuals in the state who are not getting any kind of Behavioral Health services. Some of the Drop-In Centers Agencies are doing a good job, like Brandywine who covers all symptoms. Most of the other Drop-In Centers have keyed in on two population segments – addicts and homeless. This void leaves tons of people as unserved. The submitted void if filled by the proposal. The Consortium needs to act: 1. to serve those in the State with behavioral health disorders who are unserved and 2. To avoid getting sued by the DOJ again for non-performance.

Next Meeting: January 13th

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