

# MARYLAND STATE DRUG AND ALOCHOL ABUSE COUNCIL

## Planning and Coordination Workgroup

### Minutes for February 11, 2009 Meeting

**Present:** Maggie Dietrich (for Josh Sharfstein), Gayle Jordan-Randolph, Kim Kennedy, Tom Liberatore, Kevin McGuire, Chris Zwicker

- I. Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 1:05 p.m.
- II. Approval of the Minutes:** The minutes of the January 14, 2009 meeting were approved as written.
- III. Selection of Chairperson:** Kevin McGuire was selected as chair.
- IV. Survey of Resources:** A discussion concerning the survey of resources' usefulness and how to proceed was held. During the previous council, the chair of the Planning and Coordination Committee was the director of ADAA and he dedicated staff time to conducting the survey. The group was informed that the time spent conducting the survey was labor intensive and took many hours. With ADAA losing positions and having a freeze on hiring for vacant position, it was not known what resources they would have available to dedicate to conducting the survey this time. The members considered whether or not the definitions used in the FY 05 survey and the detail captured in the survey was needed/useful at this time, given the cost of doing the survey.

The reasons for conducting the resource survey were discussed. To make effective and efficient use of all the resources available, it is necessary to identify where those monies reside and what is being done with them. We want to know:

1. What agencies have money dedicated to substance abuse services?
2. What is the source of that money?
3. What are the strings attached to/limitations of the money?
4. Who implements the programs funded by the money?

It was noted that, for the FY 05 survey, we were unable to obtain Health Choice data and, therefore, did not know how much money Medicaid spends on substance abuse services. Members felt it was necessary to obtain this information for this survey.

Discussion focused on the part private insurance plays in funding services. To understand the overall expenditures and cost of substance abuse services, it would be helpful to know exactly how much private insurance spends. Substance abuse treatment is a public health issue, and as public and private providers make up the healthcare system in Maryland, both public and private providers share responsibility in this public health issue.

Members also decided that we would draft a letter asking the above questions and ask Chairman Colmers to send it to the Secretaries of the departments known to have funds dedicated to substance abuse services.

- V. Developing the Plan and Over-arching principles:** One of the tasks of the Planning and Coordination Workgroup is to, using recommendations from the Safer Neighborhood and the Healthier Maryland Workgroups, prepare the state-wide plan to submit to the Council for approval for submission to the Governor. This task may also include establishing over-arching principles that guide the recommendations found in the plan. The workgroup reviewed the over-arching principles that guided Join Together, Inc.'s (of the Boston University School of Public Health) consensus panel's report, *Blue Print for the States: Policies to Improve the Ways States Organize and Deliver Alcohol and Drug Prevention and Treatment*. They also reviewed the guiding principles of a recovery-oriented system of care.

It was decided that each member would develop what they thought the guiding principles should be and present them at the next meetings. At that time, a consensus would be reached as to what guiding principles should be submitted to the Council.

During this discussion, we were reminded that substance abuse is a public health crises seen manifested in a lot of ways: foster care, child welfare, productivity at work, loss of property, public safety, etc. The guiding principles should reflect that.

- VI. Review of LDAAC Plans:** Prior to the meeting, the workgroup members were sent a one page summary of each of the local jurisdictions' strategic plan. Most of the members want more time to review the plans but one member had developed a grid that charted which issues were mentioned most frequently as needing additional resources. These were: Buprenorphine services, juvenile/adolescent services, co-occurring disorder services, and training for counselors and professionals in related fields. Another member noted how often the recovery-oriented system of care was mentioned.

- VII. Work Plans:** Given that the plan needs to be present to the Governor in August 2009, it was felt that the other workgroups need to have their recommendations into this workgroup by the end of May. This is to allow time to prepare the plan and submit it to the whole Council for approval before August. The workgroup would like the chair to notify the other workgroups of this deadline.

**VIII. Additional Discussion:**

- a. It was noted that one of the gaps in services is a true adolescent model of care. Currently, most programs take an adult treatment model and try and adapt it to services for adolescents. Another issue for adolescent care is the need to train parents and adolescents how to advocate for themselves, know what services are available for them, and learn how to navigate the system

**IX. Follow-Up from Last Meeting**

- a. Two new members have been added to the group: representatives from the mental health administration and the developmental disabilities administration. A representative from the education system and criminal justice system are still needed.
- b. Deputy Secretary Henry will discuss with Secretary Colmers the workgroup's desire to meet Delegate Hammen and Delegate Bronrott, who both chair House committees interested in substance abuse services issues. The workgroup wants to hear what their expectations of the plan are. She will get back to us on this issue.

**X. Future/Immediate steps next steps:**

- a. Draft and send letter for survey of resources
- b. Establish guiding principles
- c. Meet with Legislative Committees
- d. Review local council plans
- e. Meeting with Renata to discuss her plans and agenda and how best to move the agenda (ROSC and business practices) ahead.
- f. Inform Safer Neighborhood and Healthier Maryland Workgroups of May deadline for submission of recommendations.

**XI. Next Meetings:** The next Planning and Coordination Workgroup meeting will be on **March 18, 2009, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**, at the Motor Vehicle Administration, 6601 Ritchie Highway, Glen Burnie (Off I-695, Exit 3b, Rt. 2 South) in Conference Room 102. .

**XII. Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.