

LHIC Behavioral Health Workgroup Meeting
6.23.14 - 9:00 a.m.
Minutes

The following work group members were present: Co-Chair Roe Rodgers-Bonaccorsy, Howard County Health Department; Stuart Kohn, Howard County Citizens Association; Ronna Gotthainer, Howard County Health Department; Nikki Highsmith Vernick, Horizon Foundation; Maura Rossman, Howard County Health Department; Beverley Francis-Gibson, NAMI Howard County; and, Colette Wolf, Way Station (via phone). Also present: Wendy Wolff, Maryland Nonprofits, and Jeananne Sciabarra, LHIC Program Director.

Roe Rodgers-Bonaccorsy opened the meeting at 9:05.

Maura provided a brief update on the Howard County Behavioral Health Task Force. There was a roundtable discussion on June 11. The Task Force will be made up of 31 members. The Task Force's report is due in January.

The group discussed the behavioral health services information sheets and the spreadsheet that Paul provided. Jeananne received information sheets from only a handful of providers. Roe will follow up with substance abuse providers. Jeananne will follow up with Donna regarding providers MHA contracts with. Jeananne will update the spreadsheet with information that has been provided to date and email to the group. The group will provide advice on where the information fits into the care continuum.

The group talked about gaps in behavioral health care in the county. Nikki spoke about private providers who don't take insurance, and the lack of penetration into primary care providers to bridge the gap between somatic and behavioral health care. Roe noted the lack of substance abuse detox centers in Howard County. Colette spoke about the need for more education – we should not just ask where/whether clients are *choosing* to access care, but where providers are *sending* them. Colette also noted that Way Station's Health Home project encourages clients not to use the ED, in part because of long wait times that can contribute to the individual's crisis. The group also discussed the complexities around accepting private insurance and Roe noted that HCHD cannot contract with private insurance and can therefore only bill as "out of network."

The group suggested we do some research into consumers' use of behavioral health services. Perhaps there has been some research done within Howard County or in a similar jurisdiction?

The group reviewed some of the data provided by Hopkins on Emergency Department use for mental health and substance abuse issues. Further analysis will be provided by Georgette Lavetsky within the next week and will be emailed to the group. The group came up with the following questions:

- Among people treated in the ED for mental health or substance abuse, how many are already in some type of treatment? (This goes to the question of whether people are using the ED because they aren't able to get the help they need from their provider.)
- What is the percentage of behavioral health ED visits versus all ED visits?
- What percentage of the population has a diagnosable mental health condition?

- Can we get access to claims data to understand who is seeking treatment?
- Can we get data on prescription drug use for behavioral health conditions?

Maura suggested we put together a presentation for the Task Force summarizing the data the group has gathered and the work the group has done. Maura will talk to Elizabeth Kromm about whether/when the Task Force would be interested in a presentation.

Roe reviewed what is currently happening in the county regarding behavioral health: HCHD received funding for opioid overdose education and treatment. They recorded a video to be posted on the website and will have in-person trainings starting June 30. Roe will give flyers to Jeananne to distribute to the LHIC.

HCHD will do gambling intervention trainings. More information to come.

HCHD is providing anti-stigma training on Wednesday, August 20, at On Our Own.

HCHD is working on a Request for Proposal for a Medical Director.

Last week, MHA provided crisis intervention training to 28 dispatchers and police officers from Howard and Montgomery counties.

HCHD and MHA are working on plans to integrate the two divisions.

Action Items:

Jeananne will forward Georgette's analysis of the FY12-FY14 hospital data as soon as it is ready.

Jeananne will investigate the data questions referenced above.

Maura will talk to Elizabeth Kromm about a presentation for the Task Force.

Jeananne will update the care continuum spreadsheet with information that has been provided to date and email to the group.

The group will provide advice on where the service information fits into the care continuum.

The group will review the materials provided regarding the current action plan and templates for the 2015-2017 plan and be prepared to discuss at the next meeting.

The group scheduled the next meetings for Thursday, July 17, immediately following the full LHIC meeting at 8:30 a.m., at the Health Department. The group also scheduled a meeting for Tuesday, July 22, at 9:00 a.m., at the Health Department. (NOTE: Jeananne will be sending a doodle poll to reschedule this meeting because of a conflict.)

Respectfully Submitted,
Jeananne Sciabarra
LHIC Program Director