

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & WELFARE ~ REGION II
Regional Advisory Committee on Substance Abuse

JULY 9, 2008 ~ 12:30PM – 3:30PM ~ 3RD FLOOR ~ LEWISTON STATE OFFICE BUILDING

MINUTES

Attending:

Randy Davis – SJRMC; Scott Douglass – IDOC; Eleanor Downey – LCSC; Shawna Knight – LCSC; Cathy Masee – QBH; Paul Rost – QBH; Duncan Leonhardy – Benchmark Research and Safety; Dana Boyd – Riverside Recovery; Debbie Winchester – IHFA; Kris Stensrude – Nez Perce County Court Service; Bob Hayes – R2R/LCSC; Pharis Stanger – DHW; Suzette Driscoll – BPA; Angie Titus – Twin County United Way; Brad Bramlet – New Bridges Community Church; Dianne Waldemarson – NCDHD; Becky Faller – Lewiston Chamber; Heather Wheeler – DHW; Tanya McElfresh – DHW; Nadine McDonald – Idaho County Juvenile Probation; Rep. John Rusche – Idaho Legislature; Melinda Sonnen – IDJC; Sallie Wilhelm – CSAW; Lisa Billings – ID Supreme Ct; Cary Dingman – DHW; Karen Cotton – DHW-Rg1; Corrine Johnson – CRDS Rg1; Helen Savage CRDS Rg2; Patricia Carter; Native American Ambassador to the National Council;

Welcome and Chair Report:

Melinda Sonnen, the RAC Vice Chair, opened the meeting as Chair Charlie Spencer was not present. It was noted that we have developed the strategic plan and that we would look at it next meeting in September.

Introductions were made around the room.

Prevention Chair nominations were opened and Scott Douglass volunteered his time for this next year.

Discussions:

The use and illegal distribution of prescription narcotics in Region II was discussed. This issue had been brought up at a local community mental health meeting in Idaho County that Cary Dingman had attended.

It was noted that we would like Charlie to discuss this at the CHAIR/CRDS/RD meeting in Boise next week as an issue we would like some guidance on. We would like specific information on how to educate the public about how to dispose of prescription medications without flushing them into the water system.

It was noted by Helen Savage that Casey Meza had spoken about this at the last MH Board meeting and that she had asked the pharmacies to only prescribe refills of medicine if it was written by a Dr. (Only certain prescriptions like Hydro's and Oxy's - not ALL prescriptions.)

Dr. Rusche spoke on this topic about what is happening from the state level. He also noted that multiple filling of prescription can be tracked. He suggested the RAC see if they can get data on ER admissions and arrests in relation to this. Tanya McElfresh added that maybe an educational campaign could be done in the region on how to dispose of prescriptions. We would need to meet with the pharmacies and get their input and buy-in as being a place where old meds could be dropped off and disposed of. Kris Stensrude noted that prescription misuse has passed marijuana for usage.

Kathy Massey noted that doctors need to be held accountable as well, as the dispensing of these drugs have rocketed since "pain therapy" has been introduced. Melinda Sonnen noted that youth are purchasing credit cards and buying the drugs over the internet...even here in Idaho!!!

Heather Wheeler gave a report from DHW Central Office:

She noted that the regional directors have been assigned to special projects and have new assignments. They are to build community resources within the mental health system. They also are to remain the primary contact for elected officials.

Pharis Stanger reported that he was a proxy for Terry Pappin. He updated the group that the RFP would be scored on the 10th. There were 2 companies competing.

There is also a re-write of rules related to the drug and alcohol treatment programs. A meeting for region 2 will be held Sept 9 in Lewiston at the State Office Building.

He also noted that there are some "one time" monies in the budget and there will be a heavy focus on outcomes for that money to continue.

There is also work being done on an epidemiology report. Pharis referred people to ACCESS Idaho website for more information on all the changes with Mental Health and Substance Abuse rules. There is a group formed called SUL looking at data. It is a cross section of agencies/systems looking at the flow of the services. For more information on this please contact Pharis Stanger at DHW's Central Office at stangerp@dhw.idaho.gov.

Tanya McElfresh updated us on the Co-Occurring Implementation. She noted that a team of providers and other professionals have met and will meet again at the end of the week. They have started a work-plan on helping providers move toward co-occurring capability and enhancement. Tanya will attend a statewide COCE Implementation Team Meeting.

Break

Dianne Waldmarson presented a power point on Nurse Family Partnership that is taking place in other parts of the nation including Colorado. Region 5 is currently writing a grant to get this project. Dianne noted that she would like to see it start in region 2 as well. There was significant research done and it is a best practice model and has proved to be cost effective in aiding first time moms and low income parents.

Paul Rost reported for the Detox Committee that they are doing face to face interviews and holding meetings to find sources of funding as well as gathering documentation for the need of detox in the region. Their focus is on region II and also how both sides of the river can access and work together. Debbie Winchester noted that there is an agency in Moscow that works on both sides of the state line. He noted that and indicated that he would check with them.

There was not a report from the legislative committee, but it was noted that Steve Caylor is always open for comment on what the RAC would like to see the legislative committee to focus on with the legislation for the upcoming year.

Prevention report – Duncan noted that it would be good to connect with Region II Safe and Drug Free Schools (SDFS) Region II coordinator and get him to come to RAC meetings. Charlie Gherke of Moscow is the coordinator at this time. Sally Wilhelm noted that it might be easier for a person on the RAC to attend the regional meeting with all the SDFS coordinators from the schools as school personnel cannot get substitutes or time off to attend the RACS. Tanya noted that this would be a good meeting for Helen Savage as CRDS to attend.

It was noted that persons from the Adolescent Treatment Committee had also explored this and had talked personally with Matt McCarter from the Dept of Education to try to help connect the RAC's with education. It was noted that Charlie could take this information to ICSA. Duncan also noted that the contracts for Region 2 have been released.

Treatment and Recovery – Becky Faller gave a report that they had met twice and several of the committee members were confused as to what their role and expectations of meetings might be. It was noted that possibly all the work being done through the co-occurring meetings might be considered the “treatment” committee as this was a meeting already taking place with all the providers in attendance. It was also noted that the providers would like to see if they can get reimbursement for the time they are losing by attending meetings. Treatment providers also wondered about reimbursement for travel for those outside of Lewiston. Tanya noted that telecom equipment is coming to region 2 to help relieve travel to Lewiston for meetings and have better communication to the rural areas. Suzette Driscoll noted that maybe meetings could be rotated to rural areas. Treatment Providers do not feel valued. They now realize that Vicki Malone is their representative as well as the Mental Health Program Manager. Sallie Wilhelm was looking for brochures or information related to Dual Diagnosis recovery groups.

Adolescent Treatment Subcommittee – Helen Savage reported that Dean, Melinda, Loren, Dana, Kris, Tanya had all been meeting and had put together an application proposal for the MH Board that was not approved for this year. By the next RAC meeting, they would like to have a brochure ready describing their proposal for adolescent treatment and re-integration into the community. Helen and Dean had also met with Clearwater County law enforcement to aide in clarification of the new adolescent rules. It was suggested that these continue in all the counties as Clearwater County found this very informational and helpful. Karen Cotton noted that in region 1 they are working on doing an adolescent drug court with Judge John Mitchell. She also noted that if they can provide any information they would be happy to.

Helen Savage noted that Sherry Greenup, Melinda Sonnen, Debbie Winchester had agreed last November to be on the 2008 committee for National Recovery Month and Activities in Region II. Patricia Carter volunteered to be on the committee as well. Helen gave a packet to them on what was done from the previous year and ideas for the next year.

Other notes:

September 12th from 8:30am-4:00pm there will be a **Building Communities Presentation** by John Porter. This is Prevention/Early Intervention related and lunch is provided. This is hosted by LCSC.

Next RAC meeting:

September 10, 12:30pm-3:30pm, 3rd Floor Conference Room, Lewiston State Office Building

Submitted by:

Helen Savage, CRDS

July 14, 2008