

## Region 2 RAC Meeting

### MINUTES

July 1, 2009

Attendees: Charlie Spencer, Angie Titus, Vicki Malone, Eleanor Downey, Scott Douglass, Duncan Leonhardy, Paul Rost, Sherry Greenup, Dennis Gray, Melinda Sonnen, Tanya McElfresh, Debbie Winchester

Minutes from the May meeting were approved as written

New Vice Chair – Scott Douglass

Secretary – Eleanor Downey

IDAPPA Rule Revisions – Reviewed, no additional changes suggested. There is a need in the area for a 12-16 hour clinical supervision course was discussed. LCSC Workforce Training is currently looking at the possibility of offering a course.

Region I and II Directors Report: (Tanya McElfresh) announced that due to the restructuring of Health and Welfare regional assignments, Tanya will no longer be a member of the RAC committee or the Regional Mental Health Board. She will attend whenever possible. They are currently interviewing candidates for the position of Community Resource Development Specialist. The job description has been expanded to include RAC, Regional Mental Health, Substance Use Disorders Recovery Support Service Coordination activities and Regional Quality Assurance and Utilization Management Activities. Ross Edmunds is the new supervisor of CRDS.

Behavioral Health Update (Vicki Malone): It was announced that 1 social worker in Orofino was laid off, the social work position in Grangeville was reduced by 10 hours, and one position will remain open for the time being. Most DHW staff will be required to take four days without pay over the next year. The operating budget has been cut by 50%. This will effect medication management. Some clients are being referred to their primary care physicians for medication management or to Lewis Clark Health Clinic. There will no longer be a respite bed at the Iris Apartments. They hope to make use of the Telemental Health equipment for mental health services for medication consultations. If budget situation does not improve, there may be other cuts. There is concern about the impact of the cuts on the clients. Priority will be given for those truly indigent and caseloads are being evaluated for the appropriateness of referrals to other resources.

Mental Health Board Update (Eleanor Downey): Housing Grant Update – Brad Bramlet from New Bridges Church gave an update on their housing project grant at the June meeting. On May 1<sup>st</sup> New Bridges received notification that they would receive \$123,000 from the state of Idaho. Their plan is to build Freedom Place, a transitional housing facility for 8 men coming out of prison. Their goal is to take the \$123,000 and double that with donations, labor, etc. They think they have found a property to purchase near the airport, next to the FedEx building. The owner would sell it for \$80,000 and he would donate \$40,000 off the cost of the property. Brad's committee will ask the state if they can use \$80,000 of the grant money to purchase the property outright.

The following resources are in place for the project:

1. Kellye Sharp has guaranteed 8 jobs for these men

2. Jeff Briney – Bryden Canyon Golf Course – He will turn that facility into a therapeutic work community – grounds, maintenance, restaurant etc.
3. Interviewed 50 community leaders – 12 committed to hire
4. A financial donor is in place to pay for heat, lights and cable for 3 years
5. An Admin. Assistant donates 12-15 hours a month to the project. She will work with the men to help them get driver's licenses, social security, work boots, etc.
6. Presnell and Gage have agreed to be the accountants for the project
7. Wrap-around services and life coaching – Brad and 2 professional counselors will be available. Brad Swan has agreed to be their financial coach. They will have a fitness coach and AA sponsors.
8. They have a van a truck and bus.
9. They have 12 volunteers to do activities with the residents and 700 families to make sure they are fed and clothed. Requirement – you must be able to work to live at Freedom Place.

Once the land is purchased they believe they will get some support from additional funding resources. The property is an acre – so there is room to grow. Brad anticipates an individual stay at Freedom Place to be between 6 and 18 months, with a goal of 6 months. Goal is to take their first men in March 2010.

Detox Committee (Sherry Greenup): Sherry presented the results of the research conducted by the Detox Committee. Currently, Quality Behavioral Health is working with the community detox group around securing funds to provide detox services in the area. Several people visited the Yakima Detox center and reported a positive impression of the facility. Yakima is a social detox center that has agreements with the local hospital as well as having a nurse on duty 24 hours. There will be two more site visits and the development of a business plan. The group has developed their goals and strategies and looking for funding and a location. QBH is taking the lead. Although the QBH Board sees it as a valid idea there is not fiscal commitment. The next meeting of the Community Detox Committee will be July 30 at Probation and Parole on Idaho Street in Lewiston.

It was recommended that the Detox Committee be disbanded. There was discussion about disbanding all committees and moving to work groups related to the strategic plan as well as on an as-needed basis. There was discussion but no decision.

Prevention Committee (Scott Douglass): The committee would like to develop a speakers' bureau of offenders to speak in groups in schools and those in juvenile detention. Melinda agreed to head up a committee to develop a speakers' bureau.

National Recovery Month (Sherry Greenup): Sherry will be organizing an event September 18 from 4:00 to 9:00 during National Recovery Month. Current plans include linking people between Washington and Idaho on the bridge with an event in Brackenbury Square. Treatment centers will be encouraged to participate and corporate sponsors are being sought for the event. *Broken Dirt*, a local band, has agreed to play for the event. Tribal members will also participate. Other suggestions include a Drumming Circle, a healing ceremony, speakers and personal testimonies written on paper hands that could be turned into books for distribution in the community. Asotin County's Substance Abuse Resource Office will provide the food for the event. Melinda, Cary and Dennis volunteered to work with Sherry. Sherry is arranging for publicity in the Lewiston paper. It was suggested that National Recovery Month cards and banners from last year be used.

Budget: Melinda announced that the RAC has a \$5000 budget from the state. A part of the money must be used for 2 prevention conference scholarships and 2 ICADD conference scholarships. It is unclear if these must be full or partial scholarships. Melinda will get clarification. In the past the money has also been used to send the

RAC chair and awardees to Boise for the Kempthorne Awards event. Angie suggested that the Executive Committee determine the allocation of funds.

BPA: In Dean Allen's absence, Melinda announced the juveniles will now be on a waiting list for treatment and can only be wait listed on one facility wait list at a time. It was a recommendation that we look into getting that rule changed to get those into treatment sooner by allowing them to be on more than one wait list. The current waiting list is 1-3 months, which may not last that long. At this time there is still priority into treatment for those under the - Adult Felony 19-2524 and Adolescent 20-520I, but not a lot of use in our region of these rules. It was also noted that those that qualify for treatment under Medicaid are not getting moved to that funding source. It was suggested that the treatment providers be encouraged to assist clients into applying for Medicaid funding so that it frees up some of the other funding.

#### Other Business

- Darrell announced that the Tribe has hired a Mental Health Director-Rennetta Peachtree
- Does RAC want to sponsor a quarterly training for providers and court personal?
- Need to track down figures that reflect the actual cost of substance abuse for example: the cost of a DUI that includes man hours, resource allocation etc. Eleanor agreed to follow up
- Duncan indicated the Idaho Suicide Prevention Web Page is up
- Region I and II contain the five counties with highest incidence of underage drinking in Idaho

Eleanor Downey, Secretary

Next Meeting: Wednesday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9:00am-Noon, Third Floor Conference Room, Lewiston State Office Building