

Provider Alliance

June 22, 2009, 10:00 a.m.

MACMHB Office

Minutes

Present: Sami AlJallad (Turning Leaf), Bret Finzel (Sunrise Centre), Chris Flores (Insight), Barbara Fowkes (Spectrum), Larry Grinwis (Hope Network), Tory Hudson (Turning Leaf), Mark Maggio (Phoenix House), Terry Newton (Harbor Hall), David Pankotai (Consumer Link), Sam Price (1016 Recovery Network), Michael Reagan (Proccation), Greg Toutant (Great Lakes Recovery), Mark Weeks (FWOGC), Grady Wilkinson (Sacred Heart), Jacque Wilson (TTI), Kathy Young (New Passages)

Staff Present: Michael Vizena, Georjean Knapp

1. Call to Order

Chair Mark Weeks called the meeting to order at 10:00am.

2. Legislative Update including State Budget

Association Director Michael Vizena distributed the bill analysis of the budget.

Discussion included:

- Projected cuts
- Revenue projections continue to get worse
- Agencies are looking at closing doors to treating some who need services, looking at staff cuts
- Not as many cuts for the remainder of FY09; most service reduction will be in the FY10 year
- May be an opportunity in some areas to bring families in to talk to legislators about what the cuts mean to them – means more to legislators to hear from constituents; use photos with stories
- Remember we are one of many who the legislators are we hearing from
- Also need to talk about structural changes to increase our efficiencies
- Some trade-offs are enormous when it comes to quality of life
- Should we be looking at bills the MHA is supporting and not supporting
- The Provider Policy Committee is looking into the details regarding consolidating 46 into 18 CMHSPs
- The provider cuts are on all providers except the CMHSPs

- There was a suggestion to look at uniformly who we serve and what our services are

Next steps:

**Motion: Carried Wilkinson/Fowkes
TO CHARGE THE PROVIDER ALLIANCE POLICY COMMITTEE
WITH COMING UP WITH A STRATEGY FOR RESPONDING TO
THE BUDGET CUTS.**

3. Newsletter / Call for Articles

Mr. Weeks asked each member of the Alliance to submit an article for the newsletter.

Mr. Vizena indicated that there has been discussion on merging the Provider Alliance and Connections. An editorial networking group is being formed to look into this further.

4. AFC survey / tabulated results / next step(s)

Bill Allen, who is consulting with DCH on the Mt. Pleasant closure and someone from DHS will be invited to a future meeting of the Provider Alliance to discuss the AFC issues.

5. Lobbying efforts / MACMHB lobbyist

There was a question as to whether the Association's lobbyist also speaks to the providers' concerns.

Issues raised included:

- Do they work with ALSAO's lobbyist?
- What access does TPA have to the people that represent us?
- How do we access when we have issues?

Mr. Vizena will invite a representative from Muchmore Harrington Smalley Associates to attend a Provider Alliance meeting.

Regarding ALSAO's lobbyists from Weiner and Associates the question was asked if there is more outside the scope of the substance abuse services that she would be willing to represent? Would she be willing to represent the entire Provider Alliance?

6. **Update on Provider Alliance Committees**

The Policy Committee discussed services within the jail system; who pays the cost, GF cannot be used to pay for services.

7. **Other**

Chair Weeks will discuss with Robert McLuckie his representation on the Association's Contract and Financial Issues Committee.

Mike Vizona gave a brief summary of the June 10 Hill Day.

Secretary Tory Hudson will send a note to Amy Zaagman thanking her for her support to the Provider Alliance.

8. **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 11:45am.

Respectfully submitted,

Georjean Knapp