

# Provider Alliance

August 24, 2009, 10:00 a.m.

MACMHB Office

## Minutes

Present: Sami AlJallad (Turning Leaf), Bret Finzel (Sunrise Centre), Chris Flores (Insight), Tory Hudson (Turning Leaf), Mark Maggio (Phoenix House), Bob McLuckie (ASI), Terrance Newton (Harbor Hall), David Pankotai (Consumer Link), Sam Price (1016 Recovery Network), Mike Reagan (Proactive), Sally Reames (Community Healing Centers), Ben Robinson (Rose Hill Center), Fi Spalvieri (CLO), Christine Walkins (Our Hope), Mark Weeks (FWOGC), Grady Wilkinson (Sacred Heart), Jacque Wilson (TTI), Kathy Young (New Passages)

Staff Present: Michael Vizona and Georjean Knapp

Guest: Jon Smalley, Muchmore Harrington Smalley Associates

Chair Mark Weeks called the meeting to order at 10:05am.

### 1. CMHSP Report Card – Mark Weeks

He indicated that while his legislator could not make this meeting, he is willing to plan a town hall style meeting in September.

Fi indicated that Kalamazoo is also doing meetings of this type.

Mr. Weeks reported that he has officially resigned from the report card process. The CMH's he spoke with want nothing to do with this project.

There was discussion as to whether there is merit to continuing the project, but not necessarily as a report card. Good report cards are done by an outside entity that has no vested interest. Another venue would be to compare CMHs in regard to the basic core facts – size, budget, understanding of how they operate. Possibly expand on the CMH directory by adding additional and useful information. We could look at the Governor's Task Force for information.

The issue is not being able to distinguish between the CMH and the PIHP. There is conflict within their own identities, must be distinction between what you are measuring with each entity.

Discussion around the goals of the Provider Alliance related to this issue included:

- Should be doing a side by side comparison
- Look for best practices, trends

- How easy is it to work with CMH – how user friendly for the providers?
- Pick three things that are important to providers and rate the items
- Needs to be narrow, focused, and pragmatic
- List 3 or 4 goals – if we can save money, save time, share a degree of uniformity
- Point to the commission report – efficiency is mentioned 33 times, self evident that it is more efficient to do the same than 45 different ways

There was discussion on attempts made to improve administrative efficiencies through a single audit system, uniform contract and training reciprocity. All have not been successful. It was suggested that there might be ground to be gained by going through one or two failed acts that may wind up going through the legislature. Put a set of recommendations before DCH and The Standards Group – exhaust all options before going to the legislature.

The Policy and Advocacy Committee will bring 3 or 4 recommendations to the entire group for implementation.

#### Plan of attack

- What is TPA's status within the Association?
- What is the role of TPA going to be within the system?
- Should TPA push forward using our dues for votes? What percent of the Association's dues comes from Affiliate members?
- Being recognized as a member with the voting rights that are given to a region
- Request to be treated as a region
- Find out who on the Association's Executive Board supports voting rights for TPA

#### First step

Put together a report card for the 57 affiliate members.

#### Include

- what is the entire budget
- how many employees
- how many do we serve
- counties represented
- categories of care

Send list to Jackie – include phone #'s

[Jkwilson@ttiinc.org](mailto:Jkwilson@ttiinc.org)

## 2. Lobbying efforts / MACMHB lobbyist

Jon Smalley, Muchmore Harrington Smalley Associates, discussed tactics for meeting with legislators. He indicated it is important to be on message; localize your request.

All CMHs and providers work with individuals who could be effective in terms of public safety either as victims or as perpetrators. It would be good for providers to join with the CMHSPs and law enforcement to reinforce public safety.

As far as the current budget, Mr. Smalley stated that Republican's don't want to raise taxes and Democrats don't want to cut programs. They are currently working on a compromise. At this time he expects a short shutdown come October 1.

If there is not a budget come October 1, there is a good chance that there will be a ballot proposal for revenue enhancements. Mr. Smalley feels there is a sense of urgency regarding collapsing some agencies into others in an effort to create some administrative efficiencies.

#### 4. **Update on Provider Alliance Committees**

There were no committee updates.

#### 5. **Other**

Brad Casemore from PALS spoke to the function of the PALS group that meets at the Board association to share knowledge, issues, etc. This group is very sensitive to the providers. He indicated that a Provider Alliance used to attend. It is a volunteer group and is open to anyone.

The Standards Group (TSG) regularly reports to PALS.

Respectfully submitted,

Georjean Knapp