

**Torrance Service Area Planning Committee Minutes**  
**January 16, 2008**  
**Westmoreland Community College**

**Present at Meeting:** Mary Jo Dickson, Lucille Underwood, Darryl Holts, Sharon Miller, John Hermann, Barb Bruner, David Miele, Scott Moyer, Jim Kuemmerle, Karen Madden, Marlinda Smith, Marcia Hepner, Joyce Ainsworth, Carmine Scotece, Edna McCutcheon, Valerie Vicari, Mary Helm, Bobbi Lawrence, Chris Duncan, Laurie Barnett-Levine, Carol Horowitz, Jill Deglau, Tammy Calderone, Joni Putt, Kathy Wohlgemuth, Pat Brady, Tracy Selak, Peter Kosanovich, Kimberly Oliveros, Sherry Anderson, Brandi Holsinger, Bethany Connors, Shar Troutman, Nancy Svonavec, Teresa Rudy, Brandi Mauck Phillips, Mary Fleming, Matt Koren, Kim Patterson

1. **Review/Acceptance of the December 13<sup>th</sup> Minutes:** One change was requested to the minutes regarding a change to Allegheny. Once made they will be posted to the website.
2. **Update on Discussion with Joan Erney/OMHSAS:** During the call, OMHSAS confirmed their intent to fund a 20 bed CHIPP in FY 07/08 and a 10 bed CHIPP in FY 08/09. They reiterated that their first priority is to the Mayview closure; but did say that the Torrance beds are included in the budget. There was discussion around the need to increase focus on waivers, reinvestment funds and other funding sources. There was discussion about the ability to impact community systems with a CHIPP transfer of \$80,000 per bed. That said, DPW staff noted that they will look at costs to serve consumers in community along with diversion costs, but counties need to make a case for what they need.

The 07/08 funds will be distributed to the Counties in their next allocation. In addition, counties were told that any carryover they may have from this fiscal year can shift into this initiative.

Valerie Vicari indicated that OMHSAS planned to set up calls with each county with the purpose of reviewing budgets, and they type of services budgeted. They are also interested in learning of plans related to placements in personal care homes, including the size, and licensure. Additionally, the calls will cover residential availability and identify existing capacity compared to new development.

Finally, it was noted that CHIPP Letters of Agreement for this project will be needed.

3. **CSP Update:** Kim Patterson noted that there have been 96 CSP meetings and that 40-50 additional meetings are expected prior to all 20 consumers are discharged. One discharge is planned for the last week in January and at this time, Kim and county staff are confident that there will be another eight discharges prior to June 1<sup>st</sup>.

Kim plans to schedule calls with each county to find out where they stand related to timing of discharges.

At the last meeting there was discussion about the Task List items – as a recap:  
Kelly Murdock will send a notice when the CSPs are posted to the website, will follow up on incomplete tasks prior to the next meeting, and will also notify the counties of any incidents or barriers. It was also suggested that Kelly provide “alerts” to counties regarding any potential/pending problems.

- 4. Update on family involvement in CSPs:** There was a request to provide an update on family involvement in this process. Generally, few family members have been participating in any of the meetings held by Torrance State Hospital. The hospital social worker has called all family members identified by consumer and invited them to the CSP meetings. In addition, the social worker will call the family with any updates/information on what happens within the meetings.

A request was made to collect some data on the level of family involvement. This can be done through review of the assessments, the initial CSP involvement and ongoing involvement.

A question was raised about whether the barriers to reaching families impacts participation. Many people agreed that the length of the form along with the release process is cumbersome.

- 5. Advocates/Peer Involvement:** Funding has been approved for an additional advocate from OMHSAS. Laurie Levine reported that they have hired a staff person to replace Heath and that they are scheduled to start on February 4<sup>th</sup>. A second candidate has been identified, so once the details are finalized related to the additional funding, an offer can be made. Assuming this goes as planned, it is expected that by mid to late February, the advocate positions at the hospital will be fully staffed. That said, a short-term need continues to exist – meetings have had to be cancelled because of a lack of advocates. Training was conducted by Carol Horowitz in early January: a number of these people can begin to participate in the meetings.
- 6. Admissions to Torrance:** Marlinda and Bobbi raised the issue that community inpatient providers are referring consumers directly to Torrance. Counties must be involved/in agreement with this decision before a referral is made. Coordination with the CHIPP coordinator is necessary. There has been a jump in referrals to Torrance, with 12 referrals in the week prior to the meeting. In addition, there are 24 people on the waiting list. Those who are not removed from the waiting list will be admitted within 30 days.

In an effort to improve communication, particularly when a consumer is admitted to a community hospital, it was suggested that a Torrance State Hospital “in case of emergency” contact be listed on the Final CSP to help with diversions.

- 7. Inter-county transfer policy:** The CHIPP Transfer policy document in effect for the western region was discussed. The central region counties agreed to the same terms in order for this to work throughout the service area. Further, there continues to be some uncertainty around tracking requirements, and how funds will flow depending on the resource intensity of the placement in another county. This issue will need to be individually addressed at CSP meetings and good communication/coordination between counties will be imperative.
- 8. Bad Weather Policy – Recap:** For the Planning Committee, the meeting will cancel if WCCC closes; otherwise there will be a voicemail on Brandi Phillips’ office number (extension 7779) if cancellation occurs.

For CSPs, the County will make the decision to cancel – and will call Kim Patterson. Kim will call TSH and the recorder/facilitator, and will coordinate notification of all others. The County and TSH will notify all of their staff.

**9. Multi-County/Regional Planning:** Given the level of funding for each person leaving the hospital, there are limited opportunities for regional or multi-county initiatives. However, there was discussion of a few possibilities, including:

- Comprehensive Mental Health Personal Care Home (CMHPCH) – Following Allegheny County’s model, a personal care home with increased supports along with single bedrooms and bathrooms could be considered for individuals with complicated medical issues, for those who want to live with others while at the same time is not too restrictive and allows for choice.
- Project Transition – Southeast PA – Representatives from the Mayview service area are planning a site visit. Following that, there are plans to have them come to Western PA for a presentation. Their model is one in which consumers live in a clustered, permanent apartment setting, with services that titrate as needed. It is a HC eligible service, and could serve as an alternative to LTSR/CRR. Counties expressed an interest in further discussion, and to meet with this group when they come out.

**NEXT MEETING: February 28, 2008 at 9:00am at Westmoreland County Community College**