

CARVER COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

DATE: March 11, 2014

LEADER: Sam Deweese

TIME: 4:00-6:00 p.m.

RECORDER: Lisa Gjerde

COUNCIL MEMBERS			LIAISON MEMBERS			GUESTS
Name	P	A	Name	P	A	Name
Caroline Beise	√		Alene Chelman	√		Gary Bork, Director of Social Svcs.
Sam Deweese	√		Gary Norman	√		
Christine Dondlinger	√					
Lisa Gjerde	√					
Lisa Inman	√					
Sue Kunitz	√					
Ben Maas	√					
Rod Sawtell	√					
Twyla Sawtell	√					
Becky Sorenson		√				
Eddie Tipton	√					
Virginia Wright	√					

Agenda	Activity/Discussion	Decision/Action/Conclusion
Call to Order	Sam called the meeting to order.	Approved by consensus.
Approval of February Minutes	Motions were made to approve the minutes.	Approved by consensus.
Guest Speaker: Gary Bork, Social Services	Gary Bork, the Director of Social Services for Carver County, met with us to discuss the distribution of services within his division, as well as how	

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<p>Guest Speaker cont.</p>	<p>the LAC comes to play a role in that realm. The LAC's primary responsibility is to identify unmet needs, spending a good amount of its time educating council members on what is happening in the area of mental health in the county, and then report its findings to the Board of Commissioners.</p> <p>According to Mr. Bork, there are several positives occurring within Social Services right now, including: Home and Community-Based Care has a budget of \$24 million; Carver County is a model of how to provide services for Autism-Spectrum Disorder, which is the fastest growing intake; through the Affordable Care Act, there have been 1,700 new enrollees in Medical Assistance, one of the best health insurance policies available; and \$5.5 million of the budget goes directly toward mental health (to pay employees in the field).</p> <p>Addressing the question of what gaps there are in the mental health system (i.e., unmet needs), a high priority seems to be the lack of psychiatry hours available to mental health patients. In the one county-operated out-patient clinic (First Street Center), psychiatry hours were reduced from 8 to 3. This is, indeed, a pressing need, but currently there is more demand than psychiatrists to fill it. As an alternative, patients are sometimes referred back to their general practitioners for medications for illnesses such as depression and anxiety.</p> <p>Another such "gap" is the lack of mental health beds in Carver and Scott Counties. Affordable housing is also an important issue that needs to be addressed; fortunately, a new position for a housing specialist is in the works for this calendar year. Meanwhile, several local churches have collaborated with the county to provide shelter services for homeless families, known as the Southwest Family Moving Forward Coalition.</p> <p>A LAC member asked Mr. Bork how Social Services prioritizes unmet needs. Sometimes the legislature does this by creating a mandate for Social Services to follow. Other times it depends on what needs are</p>	
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<p>Guest Speaker cont.</p>	<p>most pressing, or which advocates for those needs are most persistent. Mr. Bork stated that the LAC can also be a part of pushing priorities as well (particularly in our reports to the Commissioners).</p> <p>Finally, it is important to keep in mind that realistically, the budget must align itself with the economy; thus, even when needs increase, often times funding gets cut. Even so, the Social Services Division is committed to keeping its staff on board so that it can provide the best possible services to those in need, including members of the community dealing with mental health issues.</p>	
<p>March 18th Meeting Review</p>	<p>We briefly discussed the upcoming Consumer Advocacy meeting on March 18th. Caroline's guest wishes to remain anonymous. We will ask each guest to report on their impression of what is going well and what needs they feel are unmet.</p>	<p>We decided to let each guest speak for ten minutes or so and then open the meeting up to a Q&A session.</p>
<p>Draft Letter to the Board of Commissioners</p>	<p>A rough draft of the letter to the Board was passed out to the council members.</p>	<p>Lisa G. asked members to email her with feedback before the next meeting in April. Alene said she would scan the letter and email the document to the members the next day.</p>
<p>Adjourn</p>	<p>Sam made the motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded.</p>	<p>Approved by consensus.</p>