

## **SYSTEMS OF CHANGE MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 28, 2008**

**3:00 PM – 5:00 PM**

**ATTENDEES: EILEENE CHAPPELLE, JOHN PUDER, MAUREEN COOPER, PAM SCHAFFER, BARBARA SEWELL, BELINDA PRICE, GINGER HARPER, REBECCA DE CAMARA, DIANA QUINTANA AND SHERRY HUBBARD**

The meeting was called to order for discussion at 3:15 p.m.

Pam Schaffer presented a list of SOH clients to each agency and where they are currently placed. Dr. Quintana asked about statistical data which would give an account of clients in the program through the juvenile justice system. Eileene Chappelle explained that the DPR (Data Profile Report) would assist with this information. She further explained this is the report utilized by the DePelchin evaluation team. This report identifies the mental health problems of SOH clients.

Recently, Pam Schaffer was contacted by the State and would like a written report documenting the experiences with the RDM system. Barbara Sewell noted that the RDM system does not make sense for our youth. She felt this system was too rigid and did not include family input. Also, she stated this system did not offer individualized services. Further limits of the RDM system are that there are no family therapy services. Members of the group felt this was a huge barrier for our families. Mental health issues may have a genetic link and may occur in multiple generations, which is not addressed. Also, no group therapy sessions were available for clients. Members of the group felt this was a big issue. Another concern addressed was the limitations placed on MHMRA as an agency in terms of psychological services. The group felt more education of parents should be encouraged. Mental health is one of the most expensive services paid by Medicaid.

### **Crisis Services**

Eileen Chappelle addressed the issue of crisis services. She informed the group that the local TV station, Channel 2 participated in a special addressing crisis situations involving the mentally ill. Dr. Schnee from MHMRA was interviewed. This was an investigative report educating the general public. Harris County was approved for a waiver in 2010 for crisis services. Currently, respite is being reviewed and nothing has been approved for youth. There have been meeting regarding the respite process. At the crisis meeting, there was no discussion regarding youth.

### **System of Hope Staff Concern**

The success of the parent partner assigned to the Juvenile Probation department was acknowledged. She appeared to work well with her assigned families. It was noted that Probation has the most complex families.

Pam Schaffer addressed the goals the SOH program. The Family Team meetings were discussed. It was explained that wraparound should consist of significant people at the first meeting. The staff should avoid telephone participation in meetings if possible; telephone meetings are not as effective. Babara Sewell spoke of family chaotic problems. She felt home visits were more powerful and exhibited family involvement. Home base therapy was discussed and everyone agreed that this type of therapy is very expensive. Ms. Sewell felt a need to establish a goal to identify mental health problems. From her own personal experiences, she explained how family members sometimes do not receive treatment.

### **Understanding the System of Care System**

During the meeting, the group pointed out the following objectives:

- Educate the community about the System of Care process,
- The program should move forward,
- Put in place some guidelines for the system,
- Define the wraparound process,
- Correct the gaps in the staff, and
- Establish a transitional plan; (1) support the staff and (2) support the families.

### **System Change Issues**

Pam Schaffer addressed the following key points regarding system change issues:

- Evident base practices are needed
- List of resources – utilizing individual clinicians
  1. Provide options to give to the families—providing a network of providers
  2. Provide an array of services for resources based on the population you are assisting
- Flexibility for unrestricted funds within the program
- Fiscal management and problems (contract, subcontractors, purchase orders issues)
- Researching other fiscal options through the community, i.e. engaging in sponsors

### **Flex Funding**

Barbara Sewell addressed the issue of flex funding. It was explained that flex funding pays for anything for a child's mental health. Flex funding also includes informal support for some services outside of medical and clinical.

### **Other topics discussed:**

Setting up a network of providers—Pam will be sending out a PowerPoint presentation, which will include the Data Profile.

***The next Systems of Change meeting: Tuesday, June 24<sup>th</sup>; 3:00-5:00 p.m.***