



**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH  
PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**September 24, 2009**

**3:30 – 5:00 PM**

**64 New York Avenue NE, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor Training Room**

**Members Present:** Senora Simpson, Nancy Lee Head, Robin Thorner, Effie Smith, Mary Ann Luby, Ray Brown, Joyce Drumming, Laureen Jackson, Sue Marshall, Leslie Bell-Davis, Mary Jean DiPietro, Rosa Hamlett, Richard Flintrop, Vivian Smith

**Absent:** Angela Frank, Chasel Smith, Kathrin Wright, Nancy Ware, Audrey Read Brown, Deborah Bear, Helen Bergman, Nan Roman, Shannon Hall, Chet Gray, Yvonne Smith, Kwanne Anderson

**Guests:** Ann Chauvin, Matt Rosen, Marcia Bowser

**Staff Present:** Steve Baron, Barbara Bazron, Phyllis Jones, JoAnn Davis

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**I. Call to Order – Senora Simpson**

Ms. Simpson called the meeting to order. Introductions were made and Partnership Council members identified themselves.

**II. Review/Approval of Minutes of August 27, 2009**

The minutes of August 27, 2009 were approved and will be posted to the website.

**III. Announcements**

- Mr. Baron announced that the Department of Justice (DOJ) was at Saint Elizabeths this week for their six months review and that the exit conference will be held tomorrow.
- Nancy Lee Head announced that a memorial service will be held for Dr. Ken Gorelick on November 16, 2009 at 12:30 pm in the Saint Elizabeths Chapel. Ms. Head asked that the Partnership Council spread the word. Also, the *Washingtonian* Magazine did a wonderful interview with him about one month before he died.

**IV. Director's Report: Stephen T. Baron**

**A. Dixon Update**

The District has filed a motion to vacate the *Dixon* decree. DMH believes that it cured the underlying problem that led to the lawsuit (i.e., the District's motion asks that the

lawsuit be dismissed since the original Ervin Act violation of unnecessary hospitalization has been remedied.), and it has complied or substantially complied with the 19 Exit Criteria. In addition, the motion argues that in light of the recent Supreme Court decision in *Horne v. Flores* continued enforcement of the Court's consent decree is not only unnecessary but improper.

The plaintiff has until November 3 to file a response. The DMH press release and motion are on the website. The regular *Dixon* court hearing will take place on October 8, 2009 at 9:30 am in Judge Hogan's chambers. DMH's report to the Court is due October 1, 2009.

A discussion was held regarding DMH's relationship with DDS. Director Baron agreed to do a presentation regarding interagency collaboration.

### **B. System Redesign**

The system redesign planning process will begin in October. The meetings will last approximately 1 ½ hour and will be held once or twice a month. Nancy Lee Head, Mary Ann Luby and Leslie Bell-Davis volunteered to participate as Partnership Council representatives. They will share the information with the Partnership Council on a regular basis.

### **C. Open Forums on Mental Health Services**

Mary Ann Luby discussed the idea of creating a forum (similar to the one Michael Kelly used) in which to address policy issues that may come before the Planning Council or needs to serve the mentally ill. A small planning group will meet to frame the issues. Members are Mary Ann Luby, Sue Marshall, Barbara Bazron and Ann Chauvin and/or Matt Rosen. Once the group meets, this issue will become an agenda item.

### **D. New Funding Grants**

DMH has received the Garrett Smith Grant to continue suicide prevention and intervention activities in the public schools and the Launch Project for early childhood education and screening.

### **E. Crisis Intervention Officer Class**

The fourth Crisis Intervention Officer training class co-sponsored by NAMI starts October 5, 2009 and another one is scheduled for December 5, 2009. With these five classes, about 100 patrol officers will be trained.

## **V. Program Reports: DC CSA Update – Barbara Bazron**

Dr. Bazron gave the following update on the DC CSA transition: as of today more than 2,600 consumers have enrolled with new providers and of that number, more than 80% have had at least one appointment. Every person is being tracked by continuity of care teams and assisted as needed.

Phase II to transition the remaining consumers (about 800) by March 3, 2010 will begin in mid-October. In addition, the pharmacy at 35 K Street is being expanded.

Dr. Bazron pointed out major issues, challenges and lessons learned from Phase I and the group discussed concerns about intakes and appointments, case managers, coordination between the continuity of care teams and the doctors, and the union lawsuit. It was reiterated that any breakdown in the system or concerns about individual consumers should be reported immediately to DMH. Dr. Bazron will meet with Marcia Bowzer and Ray Brown concerning their specific concerns. A report to the Council on the transition is due October 1 as required by the FY 10 Budget Support Act.

**VI. Old Business**

None.

**VII. New Business**

Richard Flintrop discussed the District's Chief Financial Officer revenue projections and the bill before the Council referred to as the Jack Fogle legislation. He asked those who are interested to review the bill and let him know if they want to provide testimony at the Council hearing.

**VIII. Adjournment/Next Meeting Date: October 22, 2009.**