

**DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH  
PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
64 New York Avenue, NE, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Washington, DC 20002**

**October 25, 2008  
3:30 – 5:00 PM**

**Members Present:** Senora Simpson, Robin Thorner, Effie Smith, Mary Jean DiPietro, Nancy Lee Head, Helen Bergman, Nina Swanson, Sue Marshall, Rosa Hamlett, Nan Roman, Jamie Bergman, Raymond Brown, Joyce Drumming, Shannon Hall, Mary Ann Luby

**Absent:** Angela Frank, Stephen Fitzgerald, Chasel Smith, Kathrin Wright, Nancy Ware, Audrey Read Brown, Deborah Bear, Chet Grey

**Guest:** Jennifer Simpson

**Staff Present:** Steve Baron, Phyllis Jones, Cathy Anderson, JoAnn Davis

**Absent:** Marcia Jones

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**I. Call to Order – Senora Simpson**

Mrs. Simpson called the meeting to order. Introductions were made.

**II. Review/Approval of Minutes of September 25, 2008**

The minutes of September 25, 2008 were not reviewed.

**III. Announcements – Steve Baron**

- NAMI will be hosting a roundtable conference and annual meeting on Saturday, November 15, 2008 from 11:00-3:00 pm at Providence Hospital.
- The Urgent Care Clinic began in late June and is being operated by PIW at the Superior Court. About 130 people have been seen thus far. The judges are really pleased with the clinic.
- The crises services will be starting at the end of the month. The child crisis services will be run by Catholic Charities and is expected to begin on October 27<sup>th</sup> and the adult crisis services, which will be connected to CPEP is expected to begin by early November and operate 16 hours per day. CPEP will also be operating eight extended observation beds for a period of 72 hours.
- The new Choice provider has been identified to provide service to the Child and Family Service Administration youth.
- A RFP was on the street for an Integrated Care project to provide more individualized services to Saint Elizabeths. Only one applicant applied and was rejected. The RFP will re-issued tomorrow, with a pre-bidder's conference to be held on November 14, 2008 with the hopes of soliciting three or four strong applicants.

- The Department of Health representing CMS is at the hospital today during a surprise survey.
- The Department took a \$1.8M budget cut for FY 09 as part of the City's plan to reduce expenditures by \$130M. DMH offered local dollars, which should have no impact on services.
- New service reimbursement rates are to become effective on November 1<sup>st</sup>. For the first time in seven years rates were increased for therapeutic treatment for adults, Community Based Intervention for day treatment for youth, and counseling.
- A major plan is underway to put Homeland Security and the Coast Guard on the West side of the campus, which is operated by the federal government. The District's Offices of Planning and Property Management have major plans to develop the east side of the campus for residential and commercial use. Language has been added to those plans to encourage development of housing support for people with mental illness. A public meeting will be held next Tuesday at the Chapel on Saint Elizabeths campus on the draft plan.
- DMH has been working with Larry Fricks to construct a National Memorial in the cemetery that sits behind Saint Elizabeths. Plans are being reviewed.
- DMH has added a resource for the Partnership Council member's organization programs on its website. PC members are asked to review the website for accuracy of the information and verify with Phyllis Jones.

#### **IV. Discussion on the Closing of DC CSA – Steve Baron**

Cathy Anderson prepared numerous handouts to aid with the discussion of the closing of the DC CSA. Mr. Baron began the discussion with a brief history of the Department, the legislation, the events and the analysis that led to the future closing of the DC CSA. He also discussed provider capacity, the impact on consumers and the plan to close DC CSA.

The discussion today was to focus on feedback from the members and to identify the role of the Partnership Council in this process:

- The feedback of the PC consisted of questions concerning the following: the financial challenges for DMH and the providers, facilities to be offered, free-standing clinics, and the future of the mental health consumers.
- The role of the PC included the following suggestions: communicating with the major stakeholders, being assured that consumers can navigate through the process, linking consumer groups into the PC, scheduling consumers and employee fairs, holding meetings with providers of the homeless population, DHS, and school-based system, and having ongoing meetings. Other suggestions discussed were workgroup chairs pulling in stakeholders, potential risks and the Neighborhood Stabilization Act.

**VI. Adjournment**

**The meeting was adjourned.**

**Next Meeting Date: December 4, 2008 (This meeting is being held in place of the  
November and December meetings.)**