

CFAC Meeting Minutes

April 17, 2008

Present: Leslie, Linda, Allison, Megan, Gwyn, Edward, Diane, Marcus, Shira, Bradley, Steve, Heather, Allen, Pam, Vicente, Suzanne, and Michael

Guests: Peggy Yonuschot and Cim Brailer (OPC Care Management Dept.)

Minutes: The minutes of the March meeting were approved as written.

REPORTS:

Update from CFAC Vice-Chair: There was no report from the Vice-Chair this evening.

Update from OPC CFAC Liaison: Michael reported that Secretary Benton had presented a proposal to the Legislative Oversight Committee this morning which includes the creation of between 3 and 9 "Regional Management Entities (RMEs)," which would take on many of the responsibilities of Local Management Entities. There would still be a number of functions carried out locally by LMEs, including CFACs and some care coordination and customer service duties. This proposal comes from one of the recommendations in the Mercer Report (which is available in the Pass Around Folder). The Secretary's proposal has a pretty aggressive time line for implementation, including a due date of August 1 for proposals for the development of RMEs. The Division would make decisions on the proposals by 8/31/2008, with initial implementation of regional entities by January 1, 2009. CFAC members expressed some concern that this could have a negative impact on service accessibility. Michael will distribute the proposal and this topic will be placed on the May CFAC agenda.

Michael also let CFAC members know that the Division was sponsoring a "train-the-trainer" workshop on customer service & consumer rights, and asking a CFAC member to be a part of the team from each LME. Michael will contact members next week to determine who would be interested.

Update from State CFAC Liaison: Suzanne reminded CFAC members of the upcoming regional CFAC training in Henderson (details and directions were included in the packets for this meeting). Michael noted he will be taking a state car and can provide transportation for up to 4 people. Suzanne shared information regarding Implementation Update #42, which covers a variety of topics. One of these is the proposed tiered CAP-MR/DD Waiver, which would replace the current CAP Waiver if approved. It would represent substantial changes to the existing waiver. The Division is sponsoring three public forums so that stakeholders can learn more about the proposed tiered waivers and provide feedback. The nearest public forum will be held at the CenterPoint LME Auditorium on May 20th. In addition, forums will be held in Goldsboro and Morganton on May 6th and 16th respectively. Michael will distribute Implementation Update #42 so that CFAC members have more information.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mental Health Trust Funds

Peggy Yonuschot presented information on distribution of Mental Health Trust Fund money. This year OPC was allocated \$291,873.00 to assist providers of MH/DD/SA services in developing and expanding services. The funding must be used during Fiscal Year 2008-2009. OPC received 15 proposals, most of which were very good. In making the decision about which proposals to fund, OPC considered some factors that have been identified as important priorities by CFAC. These include proposals that increased housing opportunities and focused on services to persons with dual diagnoses. In addition, CFAC has maintained that OPC should look at sustainability when reviewing proposals for funding. Although most of the proposals addressed ways to meet real needs in the community, many were not sustainable and were not funded.

The proposals that were approved for Mental Health Trust Funds are:

- UNC STEP (Schizophrenia Treatment & Evaluation Program): \$100,000 in start-up costs to expand their services beyond consumers with psychotic disorders, so they can serve any individual with SPMI or serious mental illness (including depression and other mood disorders). STEP will serve consumers in Orange and Chatham Counties, and anticipates being able to serve about 100 new persons with the Trust Fund money they will receive.
- Housing for New Hope: \$90,000 to expand their Durham-based PATH (Project for Assistance in Transitioning from Homelessness) program into Orange County. PATH is designed to support service delivery to individuals with serious mental illnesses, as well as individuals with co-occurring substance use disorders, who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.
- The Arc of Orange County: \$40,000 to provide community-based supports to persons living in Orange County.
- El Futuro: \$50,000 to expand their services in both Carrboro and Siler City.
- Person County Group Homes: \$11,873 to provide rental assistance in Person County for persons living with developmental disabilities, mental illness, or those who are dually diagnosed.

In addition, OPC was able to fund two proposals for services for children and adolescents using non-UCR Child Mental Health dollars. "UCR" funds must be paid out based on billing for specific services, so "non-UCR" funds are more flexible in how they can be used. The proposals that will be funded using non-UCR funds are:

- Chapel Hill Training & Outreach Project (CH-TOP): \$62,000 to provide parent & child interactive therapy in both Orange and Chatham County. CH-TOP has the capacity to serve Latino children and their families. In addition, CH-TOP offers consultation to child care providers such as day care centers.
- Carolina Outreach: \$47,400 to fund an independent living program which will provide subsidized housing and independent living skills classes.

OPC Community Needs Assessment

Michael pointed out that CFAC members had received a handout in tonight's meeting packet that contained some highlights of the Needs Assessment.

Cim Brailer noted that the Community Needs Assessment started with the service gaps analysis (which CFAC has reviewed and contributed to several times during the past two years). During the process OPC looked at how many persons were served in FY 2006-2007 (which was a total of 5,401). A little over half of the persons served were residents of Orange County, while both Chatham and Person County residents represented 23% each of the total served. Roughly 68% of the persons served had mental illness, 22% had substance abuse issues, and 10% were developmentally disabled.

To complete the Needs Assessment, OPC used provider forums and surveys to determine what capacity currently existed (especially for the uninsured), and received input from community groups and stakeholders to determine what was needed. This is essentially a service gaps analysis, and the process identified no major changes over the gaps analysis reviewed by CFAC in September 2007. The Community Needs Assessment focuses both on what services need to be expanded, as well as what is missing entirely in the local system. Some of the key findings included:

- increased supportive housing through rental assistance programs such as Shelter Plus Care;
- expansion of crisis services, including mobile crisis (OPC's outcomes data shows a decrease in hospitalizations since the mobile crisis service was begun); and
- additional CAP-MR/DD funds for persons on the CAP waiting list/persons who do not have CAP-MR/DD funding.

The Division Liaison to OPC will meet with LME staff regarding the Community Needs Assessment next week.

OLD BUSINESS:

CFAC Recruitment

Members reviewed copies of a PowerPoint presentation called "Recruitment Methods and Strategies for CFACs," which was presented during the statewide CFAC Conference earlier this year. They discussed ways to recruit more CFAC members, including Pam's suggestion to use public TV and Public Service Announcements to promote CFAC and advertise both our meetings and our vacancies. The "People Channel" on public access TV is another potential resource for recruitment. Members noted that it was important to educate providers about CFAC, since many don't know who we are or what a CFAC is. Gwyn added that it might also be beneficial to present information about CFAC to the UNC School of Social Work so that new professionals in the field know about CFAC right from the start.

Edward noted that it would be beneficial to set a recruitment goal. Perhaps set an annual goal, which could be broken down into monthly goals. He noted that a chart similar to the one in the Pass Around Folder that illustrated membership of the State-CFAC could be used to sort out the vacancies in our CFAC. Members agreed that this would be helpful, so Michael will develop a membership chart for the OPC CFAC, breaking down membership by disability area, county of residence, and expiration date for members' terms. This chart will be distributed during the May meeting to facilitate continued planning for recruitment. Michael will also bring copies of the flyers and brochures that were sent to providers last fall.

Peer Support Center

Michael checked in with members to verify who was interested in working on a CFAC sub-committee to investigate the idea of establishing a Peer Support Center. Allen, Gwyn, Diane, Bradley, and Heather are all interested. Rhonda had also indicated her interest last month. Michael will get in touch with everyone to coordinate a meeting time and date.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

AQIC

Pam reported that this committee continues to review policies that are being revised for CARF accreditation.

Provider Community & Quality Management Committee

Leslie was unable to attend this meeting.

Service Management Capacity Committee

Pam had no report.

Public Awareness & Advocacy Committee

Heather reported that this meeting was canceled because the committee chair was out of the country.

PSW (Peer Support Workshop)

Edward noted the PSW committee will present a budget request at the May meeting. They are still considering using about half of the presenters from last year, and inviting new ones as well. CFAC members are welcome to make recommendations for presenters. Sessions during the workshop will focus on work, the arts, and skill development. The PSW Committee suggested including a skill session that could prove useful and applicable to starting a Peer Support Center. The mission of this year's workshop will center on the phrase "One Human Family," reminding us all that persons with mental illness, developmental disabilities, and substance abuse issues are all members of a larger community.

Items from the Floor:

Pam noted that she is interested in attending the NC Council Spring Policy Forum in June. Registrations are not due yet, but Pam will likely be out of town for the next CFAC meeting.

Allen shared that the Chapel Hill Transportation Advisory Committee would be meeting later this month. He can give details to interested CFAC members.

Megan will be the guest columnist for the "My View" column in the Chapel Hill News for the next six months.

Check-in and Proposed Agenda for May Meeting:

The consensus of CFAC members was that this was a good, productive meeting. Members especially appreciated the presentations made by Peggy and Cim.

Topics for the May agenda will include a discussion on Secretary Benton's proposal to the LOC, as well as a discussion of recruitment goals.