

CFAC Meeting Minutes **October 15, 2009**

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

Guests: Peggy Yonuschot (OPC Care Management Unit), Colleen Dayton (grad student, UNC School of Medicine)

Minutes: The minutes of the September meeting were approved.

NEW BUSINESS:

Peggy Yonuschot presented the quarterly Needs Assessment update. She reminded CFAC members that two priorities were identified during the annual Needs Assessment: strengthening crisis services and increasing public awareness. Peggy presented an update on steps OPC has taken during the past Quarter in both of these areas.

With regard to public awareness, OPC has a Social Marketing Committee that is working on developing a public awareness plan. Some of their goals include:

- reducing stigma,
- increasing the visibility of OPC in the community,
- increasing the availability of preventive services,
- increasing the availability of services that use evidence-based practices, and
- increasing employment opportunities for consumers.

OPC has participated in a number of public awareness activities during the past quarter, including:

- sending out e-mails to local schools with information about recovery;
- developing a newsletter that was distributed to major stakeholders in the community; and
- co-hosting a "celebrate recovery" dance with Freedom House in October, which was National Recovery Month.

Peggy asked whether CFAC members had seen any information about the dance, since it was to be posted at clubhouses, 12-Step meetings, and other sites. Most CFAC members said they had not seen any advertisements for the dance, which Peggy acknowledged was helpful feedback.

Peggy noted that OPC's activities around crisis services have been focused on CIT for law enforcement officers. Diane asked how the program worked, and whether people have to see a judge who then orders them to get treatment. Peggy explained that CIT is a pre-booking, jail diversion program. The intent is to train law enforcement officers to recognize when someone may be in a crisis related to their disability, and to know the proper resources where they can get help *instead of* taking the person to jail. Peggy reported that the first CIT class will take place the 2nd week in January, and that the classes run all week long. They will be held at the Durham Tech campus in Hillsborough. Law enforcement officers from all 3 counties are expected to attend. The classes will present some logistical challenges because part of the schedule involves taking officers out to see various programs, such as the clubhouses and facility-based crisis services. In addition, there is a real disparity between what resources are available in each of OPC's three counties. But the incentive for law enforcement officials to participate is the possibility of having resources where they can quickly "hand over" a consumer, so that less of their time is taken up responding to behavioral health crises. But with all of the budget cuts going on statewide, this becomes more difficult. Members expressed strong interest in and support for the

CIT program. Allen noted that most people are not aware that Freedom House provides mental health services. He said he was hopeful that perhaps CIT would help get out the word that Freedom House provides more than just substance abuse services. Peggy agreed with Allen's perception of how people tend to view Freedom House.

Finally, Peggy mentioned that OPC will eventually be working on developing an updated needs assessment. Currently OPC is waiting for guidance from the Division, but it is expected that the needs assessment would become a 3-year process, rather than something done annually.

Members thanked Peggy for the update and gave her a round of applause.

REPORTS:

Update from CFAC Chair: Steve reported that he, Cheryl, and Linda had all met with Judy Truitt earlier in the week. They got an update on the merger talks with Alamance-Caswell LME. Steve said that Alamance-Caswell seemed to be dragging their feet; they took 31 days to respond to OPC's first letter. They still have a number of conditions, especially regarding getting their staff hired in the merged LME. According to Steve, Judy Truitt said that time is becoming a crucial factor because Alamance-Caswell will have to dissolve on June 30th. This is required in statute. So OPC will be pressing Alamance-Caswell to make a decision soon. Michael said that Alamance-Caswell was basically asking OPC to lay off all staff, so that Alamance-Caswell and OPC staff would all compete for positions in the merged LME. But OPC's attorney believes that we are not permitted to do so under state personnel rules. Suzanne added that this has never happened in any previous mergers of LMEs, so there is also no precedent for this request. Linda shared that Judy also spoke with them about OPC's efforts to manage the budget cuts. She said Judy told them that OPC was asking providers to give them specific data on the impact of these budget cuts. For example, how many consumers have providers stopped serving due to cuts? And how many staff have been laid off? Judy said the results will be shared with CFAC.

Update from OPC CFAC Liaison: Michael announced that OPC had nominated CFAC for one of the NC Council's Excellence Awards for the annual Peer Support Workshop. He said that OPC has always been proud and impressed by CFAC's development and sponsorship of this workshop. Michael said the awards will be given out at the Pinehurst Conference in December, though he assumes award recipients will be notified before the conference itself. Michael also told members that Virginia has developed tumors that could impact her eyesight, and that she was having a procedure to have them removed. He circulated a card for CFAC members to send get well wishes to Virginia, and said he would pass along any updates on how she is doing.

Update from Division Liaison: Suzanne reported that the Division had approved 11 of the budget plans submitted by all 24 LMEs. The rest of the plans were sent back to the LMEs to be re-worked and re-submitted. Michael added that OPC's plan was approved. Suzanne also shared that the Governor had ordered \$15 million to be returned to the Division's budget, to be used to help offset the cuts to community services.

NEW BUSINESS (cont.):

IPRS Budget Cuts

Michael gave a brief overview of these budget cuts for members who were unable to attend the special meeting on October 1st. He reported that OPC had to cut a total of \$2,250,518 from state service dollars. SA funds were reduced by \$470,208. MH funds were reduced by \$740,788. And the largest cut came from DD funds, which were reduced by \$1,039,522. But as Suzanne had just reported, \$15 million has been restored to the DMH/DD/SAS budget. OPC's share of this amount is \$482,066. Michael said that OPC had to submit a preliminary plan

to the Division the following day about how the money would be used. He said that there are restrictions as to what LMEs will be allowed to do:

- the money cannot replace county funds that were shifted into use for services;
- LMEs cannot restore the amount the state took out of CTSP ("non-core services"); and
- The money cannot be used to restore the amount that was lost due to the prohibition on using state funds to serve CAP consumers

So OPC's plan is to do the following:

- 13% of the money will go to SA services (\$62,669)
- 23% will go to DD (\$110,599)
- 64% will go to MH (\$308,798)

But OPC recognized that DD providers and consumers took a disproportionately large cut, and wanted to try to ease their resulting financial burden. As a result, OPC plans to shift some county money that had been used for MH residential into non-UCR dollars, and use that to supplement what is being added to DD funding. It's important to note that there is no loss to MH residential services as a result of this shift. So in the end, the actual increases will come out to \$221,750 for DD (to support consumers who are not on the CAP waiver) and \$197,647 for MH. SA services will still receive the \$62,669 increase mentioned above.

The increase in MH money will be used to help support kids who are losing their residential placement, by increasing the slots we have available for Intensive In-Home and Multi-Systemic Therapy services. It will also help with the transition from Community Support services. Finally, OPC plans to use some of the restored MH money will help fund the alternative service definition that was approved several months ago. Michael reminded CFAC members that OPC had submitted a request for approval of a new service definition called "Assertive Engagement," which would serve kids and families involved in the juvenile justice center. It could also be used to connect adults who are in the hospitals or in jail with aftercare services, since Medicaid can not be billed when people are in those institutions.

Peer Support Proposal

Since Cheryl was not able to attend this evening, Michael presented a proposal at her request. During the special budget meeting on October 1st, Cheryl suggested that some CFAC members should go to visit Oasis, the peer support center in New Bern. She proposed that CFAC pay for the costs of travel and meals for this trip. Michael pointed out that CFAC had already approved a \$1,000 line item in their budget for activities related to starting a peer support center, so Cheryl's proposal did not require a formal vote for approval. But Cheryl wanted to make the request of CFAC before plans were made to take this trip. Edward asked whether there were any peer support centers in closer proximity to OPC that members could visit. Several members shared that they heard the Triangle Empowerment Center in Durham had closed. Suzanne mentioned that there had been a peer support center in Graham, but she did not know whether it still existed. CFAC members expressed their support for Cheryl's suggestion.

Board Member Appointment

Michael reported that Virginia had decided she needed to step down as the CFAC voting member of the OPC Area Board, so that she could devote her energies to taking care of her health. So CFAC would need to appoint a new member to the Board. Michael said that the By-laws do not require this person to be an officer. He added that the Board does business frequently via e-mail, so anyone who was interested should have readily available access to a computer. He also suggested that members avoid appointing a member who would be rotating off CFAC in less than a year. Heather indicated she was interested in serving as the CFAC board member. There was no quorum present at the time of this discussion, so members decided to table the decision until the November meeting. They asked Michael to notify members via e-mail of the need to appoint a new board representative, so that people who were absent could also have a chance to express their interest. CFAC will appoint the new board member at the next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

Membership Update

Michael asked for CFAC input into decisions about the membership for Allison and Anne, who have not attended any meetings in 2009. Edward said that Allison is not currently interested in remaining on CFAC. Heather added that she believes Anne does not plan to return, either. Michael asked whether CFAC wanted to send letters to them so that there is an official record of the end of their terms. Edward did not think it was necessary to send Allison a letter, but CFAC agreed to have Michael send a letter to Anne thanking her for her years of service on the Committee.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

AQIC

Pam had to leave the meeting early and was unable to make a report.

Provider Community/Quality Management; Service Management; and Public Awareness and Advocacy Committees

These Board Committees held a joint meeting last week, when they heard an update on the budget. They also got information from Implementation Updates 61 and 62 regarding the community support transition.

PSW (Peer Support Workshop)

Edward reported that this Committee met earlier this evening to review the evaluations from last month's workshop and start some preliminary discussion about the 2010 PSW. This Committee will not meet again until January.

Peer Support Center Committee

This Committee did not meet.

State CFAC

Pam had to leave the meeting early and was unable to make a report.

OPC Area Board

Michael let members know that the Board had discussed the need to press for a final response from Alamance-Caswell on the proposed merger, due to the concerns Judy Truitt had expressed about the timeline. They also received an update on the budget situation.

Proposed Agenda for November Meeting:

- A review of data from the AQIC Quarterly report is scheduled. No additional agenda items were identified at this meeting.