

HPR I REACH Advisory Council

Minutes

July 24, 2014

10 a.m. to noon

Region Ten CSB

Meeting was called to order by Gail Paysour. There were 17 attendees including: Bob Villa (DBHDS); Michele Ebright (DBHDS); Becky Shaw (WSH); Todd Cramer (Horizon BH); Genevieve Brown (Rockbridge CS); Martha Maltais (RTCSB); Nancy Hopkins-Garriss (Pleasant View/VNPP); John Malone (HRCSB); Krista Lynch (VCSB); Robert Hurt (Arc); Robert Tucker (Valley CSB); Gail Paysour (HPR I); Erin Haw (disAbility Law Center of VA); Andrea King (VAIL); Jim Gillespie (RACSB); Dennis Vaughn (HPR I); Dave Yereb (NWCSB); Barbara Shue (HPR I Consultant);

Following welcome and introductions, Bob Villa introduced Dr. Michele Ebright who is a licensed clinical psychologist and behavioral analyst hired by DBHDS to work with the REACH programs. Mr. Villa will be changing roles at DBHDS, working with Family Supports. Mr. Villa provided updates on the draft of the REACH Standards which are due to be finalized shortly. Additionally, DBHDS is working with VCU and UNH on a monitoring tool that will serve as a quality improvement measure for REACH programs across the state. The standards and monitoring tool were developed in order to ensure consistency and quality across the 5 regional programs as they transition from the START model to REACH. The REACH Advisory Councils will play a significant role in reviewing results of the monitoring tool recommendations and providing guidance to the regional REACH program for quality improvement.

James Vann was not able to attend this meeting due to a death in his family. Ms. Paysour presented utilization data, and a preliminary summary of utilization data for FY14. Complete data will be compiled over the next month and shared with the Council prior to the next meeting in October. Staff changes include the hiring of Dr. Adam Kaul as the new Medical Director. Dr. Kaul is a psychiatrist in private practice in the Richmond area and is also the Medical Director for Region IV's REACH program. He brings a great deal of experience in working with individuals with IDD and is a strong systems thinker. One coordinator has resigned but the two new coordinators are scheduled to begin work in August. This will mean that the Coordinator positions will remain fully staffed. Krista Lynch noted that Valley CSB has a couple of individuals at WSH for which step-down to the REACH CTH had been requested but had not been able to utilize due to capacity issues. Ms. Paysour will discuss with James Vann and also requested that Support Coordinators call their REACH Coordinator and request that this need be triaged weekly in order for the CTH to make arrangements for these individuals.

Gail Paysour provided the Project Manager's Report. Through part of the HPR I Children's Crisis grant, Dr. Lauren Charlot was a featured speaker on the topic "Do and Don't as Assessing Individuals with IDD in Crisis". Dr. Jill Hinton was scheduled to conduct a workshop on "Assessing Children with Autism in Crisis". However, Dr. Hinton's workshop had to be cancelled due to illness. She will plan to conduct this training in the region at the Arc of the Shenandoah's Valley Conference on November 1st. The latest report on compliance with the Settlement Agreement is out and posted at: <http://www.dbhds.virginia.gov/settlement/ODS-140606IRReport.pdf>

A workgroup of the REACH Advisory Council has worked with Region Ten and finalized a Request for Proposals for someone to provide training for ten IDD providers in the region to increase direct support staff competencies in supporting individuals with challenging behaviors. The RFP was issued on July 18th. There will be a 30 day time period for interested parties to submit a proposal. The workgroup hopes to have a vendor hired by September. Ms. Paysour requested Council feedback on how

agencies/providers to be training might be selected and what criteria for selection would be important to the Council. The following were recommended:

- Simple application (one page)
- # of clients who would be impacted by the training
- # of direct support staff impacted
- History of serving individuals with challenging behaviors
- Mix of large and small providers who provide an array of services
- Ability to impact others and share training with other parts of the agency or other providers in the area
- Selection of providers in all parts of the Region
- What other trainings has the agency received in the past (demonstrated willingness to learn new skills)
- Cross section of CSB and Private providers

It was recommended that the selection committee be made up of people with no vested interest (who are not applying to receive the training). It was recommended that CRCs be involved along with someone from CVTC and, perhaps Advisory Council members from other Regions. Ms. Paysour will use these recommendations to work with the RFP Workgroup and establish an application process and selection committee.

Barbara Shue provided an update on the needs assessment for the crisis system for children with ID/DD. She has been in contact with all 8 CSBs and some private providers to do an assessment of current resources and gaps. A report is due to DBHDS in the coming week and will be shared with the Council.

Jim Gillespie raised concern about language in the REACH Standards re: the need for individuals to have case management before being admitted to the REACH CTH. It was suggested that language be added to the Standards instructing that final decisions re: admission to the REACH house are the decision of the REACH Director and that inquiries on cases where this is a concern be directed to the REACH Director. Bob Villa will take this under consideration but emphasized that all admissions are on a case by case basis and that collaboration between the CSB and REACH is essential.

It was recommended that that the REACH team make an effort to re-establish contact with all stakeholders and community partners as the new REACH Standards are finalized in order to build stronger relationships and clarify misinformation and misperceptions about REACH in the community. It was acknowledged that a number of providers had bad experiences with REACH early on and have failed to utilize or engage with services since that time.

Martha Maltais inquired whether DBHDS would consider additional funding for specialized equipment and/or assistive devices to meet individuals' needs at the CTH. She highlighted a recent case where an individual needed specialized equipment including a hospital bed and furniture. Region Ten was able to assist the REACH staff to obtain the needed equipment. Mr. Villa noted that it would be up to ESUCP to work this into their budget.

Robert Hurt announced that the Arc of the Shenandoah Valley will hold a conference with workshops presented by REACH and Dr. Jill Hinton on November 1, 2014 in Front Royal. More details to follow.

Meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

**Next START Advisory Council Meeting will be at Region Ten CSB on October 30, 2014, at 10 am.
Submitted by: Gail Paysour**