

HPR I REACH Advisory Council

Minutes

October 30, 2014

10 a.m. to noon

Region Ten CSB

Meeting was called to order by Gail Paysour. There were 23 attendees including: Heather Norton (DBHDS); Becky Shaw (WSH); Megan Martin (Horizon BH); Genevieve Brown (Rockbridge CS); Martha Maltais (RTCSB); Robert Johnson (RTCSB); John Malone (HRCSB); Lana Hurt (Arc/Wall Residences); Robert Tucker (Valley CSB); Gail Paysour (HPR I); Erin Haw (disAbility Law Center of VA); Jim Gillespie (RACSB); Dennis Vaughn (HPR I); Dave Yereb (NWCSB); Barbara Shue (HPR I Consultant); James Vann (ESUCP/REACH); April Dovel (ESUCP/REACH); Denise Forbes (CVTC); Lynn Shoen (RTCSB); Paula Stone (RRCSB); Ruth Ewers (RTCSB); Lonnie O'Baugh (VCSB); Krista Lynch (VCSB)

Following welcome and introductions, Heather Norton gave DBHDS updates regarding the statewide monitoring tool being developed by VCU and UNH 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. These assessments will be done semiannually for each program with one being a self-assessment and the second conducted by a team from DBHDS and the Partnership for People with Disabilities at VCU. 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.

Since DBHDS is no longer contracted with UNH nor using the SIRS database to track data, DBHDS is in negotiations with NRVCSB to develop a Data Store for REACH data in order to adequately track necessary data for DOJ reporting. Since this Data Store is not yet functional, CCS data is being used for reporting purposes. Ms. Norton noted that current data for the last FY indicate a significant increase in utilization of REACH services. Programs across the state are hitting their response time targets of 2 hours for rural areas and 1 hour for urban areas.

James Vann presented REACH updates summarized in the attached Powerpoint presentation. Significant progress has been made in the last quarter in regards to hiring qualified staff. The Crisis Therapeutic Home (CTH) Director position is filled and all Clinical Team positions are filled. James introduced April Dovel to the Council. April began work at the Interim CTH Director after the previous Director resigned. She was made the CTH Director this month. Dr. Joan Beasley recently conducted a review of the program and the results and recommendations are attached. Robert Johnson suggested ESUCP consider utilizing web-based technology as a means of efficient and effective communication with CSBs and other community partners in order to enhance communication. Ms. Paysour and Mr. Vann will follow up with Region Ten's Mark Carrol in IT and ESUCP's IT department to see how this might be accomplished. Ruth Ewers also suggested the possibility of allowing shared access to Electronic Health Records as a means of viewing notes so that Support Coordinators and providers will have up to date information on REACH clients receiving services. Mr. Johnson noted that Region Ten is beginning to use this type of access in collaboration with Martha Jefferson Hospital. Both of these suggestions were added to goals for the current year.

Gail Paysour provided the Project Manager's Report (attached) and utilization data summary from FY14. The previous year's goals were reviewed, revised and new goals added. Ms. Paysour will provide a draft of the goals discussed in the coming week for Council members to review and approve.

A workgroup of the REACH Advisory Council has worked with Region Ten and has sent a letter of intent to offer a contract as a result of the recent Request for Proposals for someone to provide training for IDD providers in the region to increase direct support staff competencies in supporting individuals with challenging behaviors. Commonwealth Autism Services has been selected to implement their Registered Behavioral Therapist training for 5 providers in the region. The provider selection process was discussed and a draft application was approved by the Council. Applications will be distributed in the coming week through the Advisory Council distribution list and DBHDS website. Applications will be due the first part of December and a panel will review the applications and select 5 providers to receive this training.

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.

Barbara Shue provided an update on the progress towards developing a crisis system for children with ID/DD. REACH has hired one full time Coordinator whose responsibility will be to work with children at the five CSBs in the region who do not have mobile crisis teams. Horizon Behavioral Health has mobile crisis teams in place. Region Ten and Valley CSBs have been awarded MH money and are in the process of developing mobile crisis teams. These teams will serve all children including those with ID/DD/ASD. A regional position has been approved to assist in coordinating the development of this service. Recruitment for a qualified individual has begun.

Meeting adjourned at noon.

Next START Advisory Council Meeting will be at Region Ten CSB on January 22, 2015, at 10 am.
Submitted by: Gail Paysour