

**HPR I START Advisory Council**  
**Minutes**  
**April 25, 2013**  
**10 a.m. to noon**  
**Region Ten CSB Conference Center**  
**500 Old Lynchburg Road; Charlottesville, VA 22903**

Meeting was called to order by Gail Paysour. There were 18 attendees including: Sheri Sobkowiak (RRCSB); Lee Price (DBHDS); Martha Maltais (RTCSB); Lynn Shoen (RTCSB); Denise Forbes (CVTC); Nancy Hopkins-Garriss (Pleasant View/VNPP); Jim Gillespie (RACSB); Genevieve Brown (Rockbridge CSB); Wanda Saner (WSH); Wendy Okinkosky (WSH); John Malone (HRCSB); David Yereb (NWCSB); Krista Lynch (VCSB); Lonnie O'Baugh (VCSB); Felicia Prescott (Horizon); Lana Hurt (by phone, Wall Residences); Gail Paysour (HPR I); James Vann (START/ESUCP)

James Vann, new START Director as of April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2013, was introduced to the group and minutes of the March 4<sup>th</sup> meeting were reviewed and accepted with one correction.

Lee Price provided opening comments regarding the challenges moving forward in a changing system. These include the intent to redesign the waiver program, addressing Waiver reimbursement rates and the closing of the training centers. He emphasized that the START program is only a piece of the entire system and is not designed to fill all of the gaps in the current system. Also emphasized was the importance of fidelity to the START model and how remaining true to the model will allow the service gaps to be readily identified.

Ms. Paysour provided several updates including:

- Plans to expand the sensory room are close to being finalized and Ms. Paysour is working with Region Ten and the START team to schedule the renovations at the respite facility. Due to the nature of the construction, the respite house will be closed for a week while the renovation work is done. The START team will plan to provide only in-home respite during the week since no guests will be able to be in the house.
- All of the START Directors met in Richmond on April 24<sup>th</sup> to discuss licensure issues with Les Salzburg and Bob Villa. After recent site visits at all of the programs, licensure felt that the current license for Outpatient, Crisis Stabilization and Group Home services did not adequately cover the array of START services. The most likely outcome will be modifications to the current license to better accommodate and describe the services that START provides.

James Vann provided the START Director's Report

- Personnel Changes and Hiring Activities—most notably, James has been hired as the HPR I Director. There are currently six Coordinators hired and another will most likely be hired in the next week. They hope to have 2 Coordinators to cover the Fredericksburg area as the demand in that area is so high. The demand for in-home crisis stabilization and supports remains high, so the program is looking to hire more in-home staff to meet the need throughout the region
- Mr. Vann provided the regional data report (attached). Demand remains high for crisis beds and individuals from HPR I have utilized beds in HPR II and III when available. There was discussion re: the ratio of planned vs. crisis beds. Three beds will be reserved for crisis but there will be some flexibility depending on need. Mr. Vann anticipates that as the program matures, the planned beds will remain full for planned stays.

- **Troubleshooting Local Systemic Issues and Concerns with Implementation.**  
There was significant discussion of the systemic crisis created when individual has no designated home to which to discharge and START will not accept individuals into the respite house when there is no identified place for the individual to which to return. Lonnie O’Baugh noted that in these situations, the system of case management needs support and suggested that a focus on person-centered planning allow for some flexibility when someone loses their placement. Jim Gillespie noted that some CSBs run their own group homes and requested that individuals be considered for placement at the START respite facility if the CSB says they will have a bed available upon discharge even if the specific bed is not identified at the time of admission. James Vann noted that START will need to maintain a firm commitment regarding individuals having a place to discharge in order to keep beds open and available. Denise Forbes noted that providers need to report difficulties before the situation becomes a crisis and loss of placement creates an even larger crisis. Ms. Paysour also suggested that the regional AMC call on Wednesdays could be better utilized for case managers to discuss challenging individuals and find resources before a crisis occurs. Lana Hurt suggested exploring the use of regional MH Crisis Stabilization Beds if START beds are full. There will be continued discussion around this topic. Nancy Hopkins-Garris emphasized the dilemma faced by providers in holding an empty bed while an individual is in respite with no reimbursement available to them. Lee Price encouraged stakeholders to be vocal re: these gaps as the waiver structure is studied and the system moves forward. Krista Lynch suggested that the Regional provider round table meeting on May 2<sup>nd</sup> would be a good forum for further discussion re: START services and continuum of care issues.

Collaborating with local in-patient hospitals and CSB Emergency Services remains a challenge and clearer lines of communication need to be established. START remains a resource to all Emergency Services providers at the CSBs and would like to be called anytime an individual with ID/DD presents to ES.

ESUCP has begun installing tele-medicine equipment and is developing the capacity for web-based meetings and communication to more effectively link to CSBs and other providers in the large geographic region. This will be a project in the coming year to try to get the technology working and in use.

- Due to limited time, there was a brief review of the statewide START Quarterly Report for March, 2013 by Dr. Joan Beasley. If there are further comments and/or questions, they can be directed to Ms. Paysour.
- Meeting was adjourned at noon.

**Next START Advisory Council Meeting will be at Region Ten CSB on July 25, 2013 from 10:00 am until noon.**