

HPR I START Advisory Council
Minutes
July 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 23 attendees including: Bob Villa (DBHDS); Martha Maltais (RTCSB); Nancy Hopkins-Garriss (Pleasant View/VNPP); Jim Gillespie (RACSB); Genevieve Brown (Rockbridge CSB); Christy Cacciapuglia (WSH); Liz Mawyer (WSH); John Malone (HRCSB); David Yereb (NWCSB); Krista Lynch (VCSB); Lonnie O’Baugh (VCSB); Felicia Prescott (Horizon); Todd Cramer (Horizon); Lana Hurt (Wall Residences/Arc); Robert Hurt (Arc); Kim Lett (disability Resource Center); Jess Cifizzari (disability Resource Center); Ruth Ewers (Region Ten); John Santoski (ARC of the Piedmont); Robert Tucker (Valley CSB); Dennis Vaughn (HPR I); Gail Paysour (HPR I); James Vann (START/ESUCP)

Following welcome and introductions, Bob Villa provided several updates. The Office of Developmental Services has undergone several staffing changes with the move of Heidi Dix and Lee Price to newly created positions as advisors to Commissioner Stewart regarding the DOJ Settlement Agreement. Bob Villa now reports directly to Dr. Olivia Garland and the Office of Developmental Services is actively recruiting to fill the vacant Assistant Commissioner position. Mr. Villa highlighted items from the most recent report by the Independent Reviewer for the Settlement Agreement including the statewide challenge in hiring and retaining qualified staff. Mr. Villa noted ongoing collaboration with the Office of Licensing to clarify START services. Regional updates included Regions IV and V challenges in getting their respite homes open. Region IV will open a home in the fall in a cottage owned by St. Joseph’s Villa in Richmond. Region V will open a home on the property of the training center in its region. There were several questions re: the new waiver regulations.

Ms. Paysour presented the Project Manager’s July report (attached). Krista Lynch asked about whether ESUCP was billing yet since her Support coordinators had noted incomplete ISARS in the system. James Vann noted that they were not yet billing but would begin this month. It was noted that individuals eligible for START receive services regardless of insurance or ability to pay.

There was discussion around the difficulty of clients with IDD being able to access local inpatient psychiatric hospital beds in acute crisis and the service gaps around this issue. It was noted that a joint meeting of the ID/MH Council will take place in Richmond next week to discuss this statewide concern.

Ms. Paysour is interested in having multiple sites around the region host the upcoming season of START webinars. Those interested in hosting will need to have space for 12-15 people to view the webinar, internet access and a projector for viewing. Any agency interested in hosting should contact Ms. Paysour. The hope is that making these webinars more widely available will enable the region to utilize its 25 slots available from UNH more effectively and maximize training opportunities throughout the region.

Dr. Joan Beasley is in the process of preparing a draft of the FY2013 Annual Report. This will be distributed to the Advisory Councils across the state for review and editing prior to submission to DBHDS. Ms. Paysour will distribute the draft for review sometime in August with the final report to be completed by September 30th. Members were asked to consider what primary goals they would like to see accomplished in the coming year and be prepared to provide feedback to Ms. Paysour on this for this report.

James Vann provided the START Director's Report

- Personnel Changes and Hiring Activities—There has been significant staff turnover both on the clinical team and in respite staff. However, active recruitment and hiring has led to the hiring of two new Team Leaders and two new Coordinators who have either begun work within the last three weeks or will begin in August. The need for Master's Level individuals with a license remains in addition to a PhD level psychologist. Mr. Vann noted that he has implemented a coaching program as part of orientation, utilizing members of the START National team along with experienced clinical staff from Region III to assist in strengthening the skills of the Coordinators and new staff. His goal is to have a stronger team within the next 6 months.
- Mr. Vann provided the regional data report (attached). Demand remains high for crisis beds and in-home crisis stabilization and supports remains high. The program is working with over 150 individuals throughout the region. Due to the overwhelming demand and high caseloads, the program is behind in developing quality Crisis Plans. Mr. Vann is working to assist Coordinators to catch up while balancing the demand for crisis response.
- The need for provider trainings was discussed and Mr. Vann noted that he has scheduled 5 trainings and noted that it would be helpful for anyone requesting training to develop topics of need so that trainings can be developed and presented in a wider format.

It was noted by Kim Lett that there have been problems in getting information about START to DD Case managers and the CILs. Members were encouraged to take responsibility for getting information out to anyone working with individuals with IDD. Additionally, Bob Villa noted that he, Ms. Paysour and James Vann are available to provide START presentations across the region where a need is identified.

- Meeting was adjourned at noon.

Next START Advisory Council Meeting will be at Region Ten CSB in October. This meeting may need to change from its originally scheduled date of October 25th due to it conflicting with the NADD conference which many members will be attending.