

MHSA Update February 2009

1. New Directions – Jenene Sowell.

Program background in previous years this was called the Day Treatment Program. It was five days per week and services were bundled, each Medi-Cal participant was billed for a full day of services. Two years ago the Program name changed to Wellness and Recovery. On July 1st, 2008 the program became New Directions a mini ACT Team. There are still groups five days a week, but services are no longer bundled. This gives staff flexibility to be off site as needed bringing services to consumers in the community. The Monday/Friday Program is called Moving On. This program focuses on consumers with mental health issues and co-occurring drug and/or alcohol issues using a harm reduction model.

The Program on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday is called Healthy Living and are run by Sue Haddon, Adult Ed Teacher. This group focuses on nutrition, reading food labels, and making healthy food choices. Sue Haddon will be starting a budgeting series. Thursday's group is Peer Counseling Training. The first group graduated in the fall and a second group is in process. Two of the Peer Counselors volunteer in the Crown Point Lobby assisted those having a difficult time. Once a month consumers go on an outing. New Directions participants have the option of coming one or more days a week.

New Directions participants work in the Snack Shack in the lobby at Crown Point and also offer snacks to the Laura Wilcox Building. There are three paid Peer Counseling positions for the Snack Shack.

We are in the process of starting a Day Labor Program. We are working on approval from the County.

New Directions participants are also leasing two houses on School Street. Currently there are five consumers living in the two homes. There is a weekly house meeting, menu planning and shopping. New Directions staff include: Jenene Sowell, Sue Haddon, Peggy Keller and two MFT trainees (pre-masters). Becca Carter also helps when staff is out of the office.

2. Behavioral Health Director's Report, Grant & MHSA update – Handouts. Mary Lowe & Michele Violett.

The Governor has proposed taking \$226 million in MHSA funds to fund Mental Health Managed Care. This would need to go before the voters. For Nevada County this would be a loss of \$450,000. The Governor has deferred Medi-Cal payments for seven months. We have reserve funds, but this will not last until September. At the federal level the FFP reimbursement rate may increase from 50% to 61%. There is a proposed tax on alcohol 5 cents per drink and 25 cents per bottle of wine to fund drug and alcohol programs. Historically this type of tax never passes due to efforts of lobbyists.

The Behavioral Health budget is in good shape. There are no layoffs or furloughs proposed. There is still a hiring freeze, which prevents us from filling vacant positions such as the Clinical Supervisor position. The County has told us to reduce class 2 expenses by 2.5%. Class 2 is office supplies, travel, or contracts.

The \$500,000 Mentoring grant from the Department of Justice has been approved by the Board of Supervisors. There are contracts in place with Big Brothers/Sisters and the Friendship Club. We are still working on the SPIRIT contract.

The Co-Occurring Disorder Grant (COD) is in its second year. There are 12 participants. In order to qualify participants must be in Mental Health Court. The Court wants to do a COD expansion with CORR and they will be applying for a grant.

There is a Federal Emergency Shelter Grant that Hospitality House will be applying for. There is also a Continuum of Care Grant from HUD. The first Continuum of Care Grant meeting will be on February 13th at 11:00 a.m. at Hospitality House. Terry Winters from Nevada County Housing Development Corporation is taking the lead on this grant.

We need to start the 2009/10 CSS community planning process. There is a \$500,000 increase in funds, but future years 2010/11, 2011/12 and 2012/13 will decrease by 20-30% each year. Nevada County's prudent reserve is 96% funded. We are the only county in the State with a prudent reserve almost fully funded.

The Housing MOU has been written and is being reviewed by Michael Heggarty. Next it will go to Terry Winters for his feedback and then to County Counsel. Terry Winters and Michele Violett have attended training in Sacramento to learn the application process for Housing. The application is huge.

Workforce Education and Training (WET) draft plan is being reviewed by the subcommittee. We hope to get comments and feedback from community members before the plans 30 day public comment period.

Capital Facility and Technology. The first project Turning Point remodel is under construction and expected to be completed by March 27th. The second project Behavioral Health Crown Point remodel has been submitted to the State and we are waiting for approval. Mike Quintana is working on the RFPs for this project so that we will be ready to proceed once we have approval from the State. The third project is Odyssey House. Mike Quintana is working on pricing out items. The IT/Technology piece is for a new billing system and electronic health record. This group is meeting every week.

Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) Becky Slade and Rich Stone have been working on this for the past year. The handout is an early draft that lists the 10 items from community outreach meetings. We will need to ensure that we don't overspend our funds so that when the decrease happens we will have enough funding to support current programs and make it clear with each contract which programs have ongoing funding and which ones are only for one year. There is no prudent reserve for PEI, WET, Capital Facilities/IT, Housing, or Innovation.

Statewide PEI Projects – Initially we were given the option to assign some PEI funds to the State or it would revert to the State for redistribution to all the counties. We intended to only assign PEI funds for one year at a time. The paperwork had not yet been turned in and we now have the option to keep the PEI funds.

Innovation Guidelines have been released this week. We need to submit some of our other plans before we can start having community meetings for Innovation.