

Fairfield County ADAMH Board

Minutes of the November 27, 2007, Board meeting held at 6:30 p.m. at the Board office pursuant to notice mailed to all Board members.

Chairman Weimer called the meeting to order at 6:45 p.m. with a quorum being present.

ROLL CALL PRESENT

Gene Eusanio, Sheila Heath, Larry Miller, Ph.D., John Murphy, Danalee Ogg, Phillip Prior, M.D., Marian Reitano, Carol Sullivan, Bill Weimer, Kevin West, Jerry Woodgeard.

ABSENT

Eric Walker.

STAFF

Orman Hall, Don Mohler, Rhonda Myers, Lynn Porter, Nadine Carroll.

GUESTS

Suzanne Pelletier-Walker, Tony Motta, Molly Swisher, Brad Hedges, Trisha Saunders, Aaron Brown, Tonya Julian, Don Julian, Jennie Saelens, Tamara Bartek, Dave Phalen, Loretta Phalen.

Prior to the meeting being called to order, Molly Swisher gave a tour of Information and Referral's office and updated board members on the status of the crisis line transition. Staff has been hired to cover the evening hours and have been working this line since last week.

Chairman Weimer asked if there were any questions or comments from the audience.

Jennie Saelens introduced herself and Tamara Bartek. Jennie coordinates the Family Drug Court out of Juvenile Court. People end up there when they put their kids at risk because of drugs. Placement length is usually three months compared to children's services, which takes 357 days. Jennie indicated that the difference is because the people are in front of a judge all the time. They have 23 parents in this current class. There are five women that are in inpatient residential because they could not do outpatient. This program started in 2005 and has been very successful. Director Hall pointed out that this program literally puts families back together although some families might not be reunited at all. Jennie agreed and stated that the grant for this program continues until October 2008 and they are currently looking for alternative funds.

Tamara Bartek explained that the Municipal Drug Court program is very similar except for the family piece. David Trimmer is the presiding Judge for that program. She stated that the workers have a real passion for what they do and are willing to be available 24 hours a day. The program can handle a maximum of 30 participants and they currently are at 29. Participants have to be ready to be in the program, which consists of three phases. Each phase lasts about three months and the first phase is very intensive. Drug courts actually save money by reducing recidivism. Their largest demographic (16) is heroin addicts. They are now working on transitional housing. Oxford House will house 6 to 12 men and has a zero tolerance policy. Grace Haven is a faith-based women's house. Typical age would be in their early 20's. Cost is probably \$80 a week for Oxford House

and Grace Haven will eventually be \$200 a month. Employment either getting and/or keeping will be factor also. Tamara added that the Recovery Center's Suboxone program (opiate blocker) is wonderful. However, there are only 30 slots available and the waiting list is over 30 days long. Tamara introduced Aaron Brown, a drug court participant. Aaron told the Board that the drug court and Suboxone program saved his live and he is very grateful to be here. He added that more slots are desperately needed in the Suboxone program and more lives could be saved. He talked about someone that died from an overdose while on the waiting list for Suboxone. He added that people don't go out and steal just for fun; they do it to feed their addictions.

Chairman Weimer asked for corrections or comments on the July and September minutes.

RESOLUTION NO. 11-27-07-1

Be it resolved upon motion by J. Woodgeard and second by M. Reitano that the July and September Board minutes be approved. Motion was unanimously approved.

Don presented highlights of the September financials. On the revenue summary page, the Board had a good month for receipts. The Board received the Medicaid FFP from ODMH and ODADAS (\$317,019.07) and the second half levy payment (\$905,678.73). On the expense summary page, the Board had a modest month for expenditures. Beside the "usual" expenditures, the Board paid for the additional audit costs (\$22,900.00) and the salary and benefits for the Family Drug Court Coordinator (\$37,089.70). With a beginning balance of \$941,073.47, receipts of \$1,279,294.06, expenses of \$674,132.14, leaves a month ending cash balance of \$1,546,235.39.

J. Woodgeard asked for clarification on the ABC grant and Other Expenses. Don explained about the grant and that the Other Expenses are the additional audit costs that the Board had discussed. He also explained how the Adena costs were misclassified and how the financials reflect both the State fiscal year and the calendar year.

RESOLUTION NO. 11-27-07-2

Be it resolved upon motion by S. Heath and second by J. Murphy to approve the September financials. Motion was unanimously approved.

Don presented highlights of the October financials. On the revenue summary page, the Board had a modest month for receipts. The Board received the Medicaid FFP from ODMH and ODADAS (\$389,023.61), the second quarter allocation from ODADAS (\$104,426.00), and an additional levy payment (\$179,441.75). On the expense summary page, the Board had a modest month for expenditures. Beside the "usual" expenditures, the Board's out of county expenditures are starting to exceed the budgeted amounts by \$73,208.76. With a beginning balance of \$1,546,235.39, receipts of \$672,996.05, expenses of \$741,557.72, leaves a month ending cash balance of \$1,477,673.72.

Out of county costs were discussed and Director Hall explained that one of the highest users of our out of county Medicaid is in the process of being closed by ODMH. Don noted that through November the Board had received \$27,000 more in Levy than was originally anticipated.

RESOLUTION NO. 11-27-07-3

Be it resolved upon motion by C. Sullivan and second by Dr. Miller to approve the October financials. Motion was unanimously approved.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Hall explained his request for \$12,000 to get started on meeting the residential needs affiliated with the drug courts and Suboxone program. He also explained the typical drug and alcohol process. An offender will be ordered to treatment by the court and probably show up for the assessment but not for the treatment sessions. The offender then ends up back in court and the cycle starts all over again. The success rate of this method was between 5 and 10 percent. With drug court and the Suboxone program the process is quite different and the success rate is much higher. An offender presents in drug court and is given the choice between drug court and jail. They must go to drug court every week, get tested weekly for drugs, get started on Suboxone, and participate in an intensive treatment program at The Recovery Center. The success rate for this program is about 70 percent. This successfully takes people using drugs and committing crimes off the street. There are four stages to this: Accountability, Treatment, Housing and Employment. We are starting into the third stage of this new program. Oxford House should eventually be self-supporting and Grace Haven should be also with the help of the faith community. Loretta added that doing the ministry in the jail showed her that when women would leave the jail they often had no place to go or they would end up going back to a bad situation. This would put them right back where they started from. She said they have been working with The Recovery Center and other community services. Director Hall added that currently there are no recovery homes for men or women in Fairfield County. Loretta added that drug court is a full time job during the first phase but these people still need a place to stay. Women who are the non-custodial parents are accepted.

RESOLUTION NO. 11-27-07-4

Be it resolved upon motion by J. Woodgeard and second by S. Heath to approve \$12,000 for the housing program from January 2008 to June 2008. Motion was unanimously approved.

J. Murphy stated that Judge Williams, Judge Trimmers drug courts and Judge Harris' mental health courts are all blessings. The programs are not easy to get through but they are saving lives and everyone is working together. He added that they are getting 20-30 people a month at the AA and NA meetings now.

Director Hall discussed New Horizons Central Pharmacy request. He stated that a lot of people rely on psychotropic medications and many clients don't have Medicaid that covers the cost of their medication. ODMH bases funds for meds on a historical basis. This request is for \$28,000 to help cover medication costs and will also help get more state funding for medications in the future. Tony explained that Central Pharmacy is a pass through to New Horizons for client's medications. Currently they have 15 people out of 650 adult clients on Central Pharmacy. They rely on samples and indigent programs at drug companies so Central Pharmacy is a last resort. He said that they were penalized for managing so well by staying within their allocation and now they only get \$16,000. He stated that these medications keep people safe and in the community. They can make the difference between staying in the community or having to go to the hospital. There is a committee that reviews every facet of the client's information and it is reviewed every 90 days. If someone gets on Medicaid then someone else can get on Central Pharmacy.

RESOLUTION NO. 11-27-07-5

Be it resolved upon motion by C. Sullivan and second by K. West to approve the New Horizons Central Pharmacy request of \$28,000. Motion was unanimously approved.

Dr. Prior noted that you treat diabetics with insulin, and you treat opiate addicts with Suboxone. Once you start using opiates, your neurotransmitters are changed. There is not a set time to come off the drug and once other stressors are dealt with it is much easier to stay off. Suboxone blocks the euphoria, which makes it much easier to stay off it because they don't get anything out of it. Director Hall pointed out that there are there are two serious limits to the drug. The cost and the special training the physicians need to administer it. He added that over the last four years, opiate use has increased five fold, from 40 to 250 per year. He stated that this is the only Board in the state that has a special line item for Suboxone and it was a vision of The Recovery Center and the Board to do this. Dr. Prior said that he saw the original proposal from the Recovery Center and Trisha added that drug screenings, intensive counseling and other supports are all part of this program. She commented that doctors and clinics are calling to see how the program is working but she cautioned that it is not perfect and that they are still learning the best ways to do this. Tamara said that this was the first "drug court" funeral but there will probably be others. Trisha said that treatment of heroin addicts is so different but young people are realizing how dangerous it is. Chairman Weimer indicated that he would like to see something on how we can get more Suboxone. J. Woodgeard pointed out that current programs might need more funds during the year so we might need to cut down on the special project funding.

Director Hall told board members that the variances were denied for the respite facility. He will be meeting with the zoning committee chair to ask them to reconsider.

Director Hall reminded board members that the Strategic Plan needs to be worked on so please review the Mission, Values and Vision statement and consider ways to make it your own.

Rhonda reported on the Board Certification process. Board staff have been working on 250 policies and procedures that will need reviewed. They range from about half of them being new to minor changes like updating the area code from 614 to 740. These will need to be done by March. Director Hall stated that we couldn't expect you to review all 250 in that time frame so we will focus on the new policies and major revisions.

Director Hall stated that the Board committees are getting restarted but they need to be kept to a minimum for the rest of this fiscal year so we can focus on these projects. Director Hall distributed a list of current projects the Board is working on, all of which need to be completed by June. Chairman Weimer added that we also need to get the Board training set up. It was agreed to have it on the 3rd Saturday in January with the back up date being the 4th Saturday.

K. West stated that people with mental illness can't be isolated and still expect to be employed. Once disabled, people expect they can't work. He added that BVR does not help. Trisha said that maybe the agencies could put together a committee to help with employment issues. Tony added that sounds like supported employment with job coaches. There are some resources out there.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Weimer stated that in addition to all the other projects, we need to get the Board training set up. It was agreed to have it on the 3rd Saturday in January with the back up date being the 4th Saturday.

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Chairman Weimer recognized John Murphy for his years of service to the Board. Director Hall stated that another Board Director had told him that he never had a board member complete a full eight year term. John has done that and has always spoken up and participated in board activities. J. Murphy stated that it has been an honor and a privilege to be on this board and he feels that we have done more good than harm. What we do here is important and we always do the best we can with what we have. We've gone through hard times that make tough decisions even harder. This is a tough community. They don't give funds freely. It is not easy to sit here and make these tough decisions and he commends anyone with the courage to sit on this board because we do help save lives.

ADJOURNMENT

RESOLUTION NO. 11-27-07-6

Be it resolved, upon motion by J. Murphy and seconded by K. West to adjourn the Board meeting. The motion was unanimously approved.

The Board meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Chair

Secretary