

**EMERGENCY SERVICES LEVEL OF CARE
AND
EMERGENCY SERVICES COORDINATING COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

September 10, 2007

PRESENT:

Wendy Andorf, CMHC / CC
Jill Berger, CenterPointe
Sara Draus, BryanLGH
Scott Etherton, CMHC/CC
Joanne Farrell, Life / Harvest
Catherine Fletcher, PIER
Laura Kersten, Touchstone
Jana Langhorst, BryanLGH
Danny Leggiadro, CMHC / CC

Kimberly Mundil, Jail Diversion / CMHC
Travis Parker, CMHC
April Priess, St. Monica's
Arnold Remington, TASC
Dean Settle, CMHC
Connie Stuckey, Cornhusker Place
Phil Tegeler, Cornhusker Place
Kristin Nelson, Region V Systems
Marti Rabe, Region V Systems

1. INTRODUCTIONS AND ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

- Introductions were made.
- Settle announced that parking concerns have been resolved at CMHC and guests are asked to park on the 17th Street side of the building.

2. SYSTEM ISSUES

- There was discussion regarding an article about a consumer who had been transported to Lincoln from North Platte. It was reported that the Mission agreed to take the consumer, but then was unable to deal with the consumer's many needs. As a result, this consumer is currently at LRC, occupying a bed allocated for Region V consumers. It was noted that a number of interventions could have taken place to avoid this scenario.
- Leggiadro commented that the public defender's office is granting flexibility in allowing CMHC to continue treatment for consumers with SMI, giving the consumer a chance to be stabilized. Though post-commitment dollars are lost in this way, treatment does provide a better outcome for consumers.
- Leggiadro noted that streamlined admission into the PIER program would be advantageous in these situations. There was discussion regarding the admission policy and criteria for PIER. Fletcher stated that the admission process can take up to 30 days; however, she agreed that these consumers should be given priority over consumers who are currently on community support, waiting for admission to PIER. Fletcher commented that she would process admissions as quickly as possible, and that the admission process could possibly begin sooner. She also stated that PIER keeps track of past referrals, and though a consumer may not have met criteria on an earlier screening, they may currently be eligible. The suggestion was made that TASC could provide interim care for these consumers.
- Parker stated that CMHC has changed its admission policy regarding psychiatric services. All persons requesting psychiatric services will be scheduled to meet with a doctor or APRN for a face-to-face appointment, and the doctor/APRN will decide whether or not to admit a consumer to the program prior to the completion of a pre-treatment assessment. Two goals are to be met by this change: consumers will get service more quickly, if indicated, and consumers will get a face-to-face with a doctor or APRN.
- Parker also provided an update regarding Local Outreach to Suicide Survivors (LOSS), a collaborative effort to bring immediate support to survivors of suicide. Dr. Frank Campbell will be training interested team volunteers on October 11 at BryanLGH East Plaza Conference Center. Parker commented that 20 survivors

of suicide have volunteered at this time and CMHC is looking for an equal number of providers to participate in the training.

3. SPECIFIC CASE DISCUSSIONS

- There were no specific case discussions.

4. BED / CAPACITY AVAILABILITY UPDATE

- Capacity information was shared.
- BryanLGH: one open bed
- CenterPointe: all programs full with waits from six months for outpatient to one month for community support
- CMHC: The Crisis Center is currently full, there are short waiting lists for day rehab, and extensive waits for outpatient services
- Cornhusker Place: full in short-term residential; ten clients in IRC, one consumer currently in respite, and three consumers on wait list for treatment in detox
- Harvest: Farrell noted that she will be meeting with Michelle See, a new case manager, to start her training. There are currently openings.
- Jail Diversion: full
- LRC: currently one over the allocation with three consumers occupying single rooms, three discharges are planned for this week. Four Region V consumers remain at NRC.
- PIER: at 48 with 15 on the referral list; PIER is currently fully staffed
- St. Monica's: full with waits for IOP of four to six months and for Community Support of four to six weeks
- TASC: experienced 100 percent diversion in past month, ICM is full
- Touchstone: wait lists of up to a month for priority population

5. OTHER BUSINESS (Funding Opportunities, Agency Updates, etc.)

- Farrell commented that a workshop to be held in conjunction with BryanLGH, originally scheduled for October 22, has been moved to December. More information will follow. Workshop topics include dementia and behavioral issues which cause placement problems.

6. NEXT MEETING DATE: The next combined meeting of the Emergency Services Level of Care and the Emergency Services Coordinating Committee will be on Monday, October 1, 2007, beginning at 9:30 a.m., in room 024 at the Community Mental Health Center of Lancaster County, 2201 South 17th Street.