

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Behavioral Health Division Administration
INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE: March 28, 2014

TO: Peggy Romo West, Chairwoman, Committee on Health and Human Needs

FROM: Héctor Colón, Director, Department of Health and Human Services
Prepared by Susan Gadacz, Administrator, Community Access to Recovery Services Division, on behalf of the Mental Health Redesign and Implementation Task Force

SUBJECT: **From the Director, Department of Health and Human Services, submitting an informational report on the current activities of the Mental Health Redesign and Implementation Task Force**

Issue

In April 2011, the County Board of Supervisors passed a resolution (File No. 11-173) supporting efforts to redesign the Milwaukee County mental health system and creating a Mental Health Redesign and Implementation Task Force (Redesign Task Force) to provide the County Board with data-driven implementation and planning initiatives based on the recommendations of various public and private entities.

The Chairwoman of the Committee on Health and Human Needs requested monthly informational reporting on the activities of the Redesign Task Force.

Background

The Redesign Task Force first convened in 2011, delegating Action Teams (AT) to prioritize recommendations for system enhancements within the key areas of Person-Centered Care, Continuum of Care, Community Linkages, Workforce, and Quality. The AT co-chairs presented their initial prioritized recommendations to the Committee on Health and Human Needs and at a public summit in early 2012. From September 2012 through July 2013, DHHS and BHD leadership contracted with a consultation team for technical assistance in implementing the affirmed recommendations.

In December 2012, the DHHS Director presented an informational report to the Committee on Health and Human Needs on the progress and activities of the Redesign Task Force, including a framework for planning, tracking, and recording progress on all redesign implementation activities, including those already accomplished or underway. The implementation activities were then framed within SMART Goals – Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic, and Timebound – to promote greater accountability and clearer reporting. In March 2013, the Board of Supervisors passed a resolution (File No. 13-266) authorizing the DHHS Director to implement the initiatives outlined in the SMART Goals in collaboration with the Redesign Task Force and community stakeholders. The Redesign Task Force, ATs, and their Staff Partners

continue their work on the SMART Goals, with progress being presented monthly to the Committee on Health and Human Needs through informational reports.

Discussion

The Redesign Task Force hosted a Working Forum on March 5 at the Zilber School of Public Health (UWM). The forum involved nearly 100 participants from throughout Milwaukee County, with diverse knowledge and expertise in behavioral health and peripheral systems.

DHHS Director Héctor Colón and Task Force Co-Chair Pete Carlson gave opening remarks and historical perspective on redesign initiatives, and CARS Administrator Susan Gadacz provided a one-year progress update on the 2013-14 SMART Goals, including an introduction to the data on the County website (<http://county.milwaukee.gov/MHRedesign/Dashboard.htm>).

Assistant Chief James Harpole of the Milwaukee Police Department addressed the forum on the topic of cooperation between law enforcement and behavioral health professionals to ensure timely, appropriate, recovery-oriented treatment of persons with mental health and substance use disorders.

Participants separated into small groups for four Cross-Cutting Issue Discussions based on topics of Prevention and Early Intervention (facilitated by Tim Baack, Pathfinders); Service and System Flexibility to Better Respond to People in Place (facilitated by Martina Gollin-Graves, Mental Health America); Enhanced Community Response Through Multi-System Involvement (facilitated by Jim Mathy, DHHS Housing Division); and How to Assure the Sustainability and Continuity of Gains/Improvements (facilitated by Katie Pritchard, IMPACT Planning Council). The groups summarized their 90-minute discussions in a series of slides, which the facilitators presented to Forum attendees over the lunch hour.

In the afternoon session, each of the six existing Action Teams had a station with a poster of its assigned SMART Goals and relevant progress from the past year. Participants visited the various stations based on their respective areas of interest and wrote their comments and suggestions directly on the posters, while also discussing with the Action Team co-chairs and other Forum participants. Following the “round robin” activity, co-chairs from each Action Team briefly reported back to the full Forum on what they had heard and read from visitors to their stations. A more comprehensive follow-up examination of the written comments is underway and will be synthesized with the ideas and actionable items that emerged from the Cross-Cutting Issue Discussions.

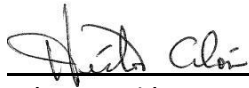
The combined products of the Working Forum will provide strategic guidance and further concrete action steps for redesign stakeholders, including the Action Teams and Task Force members as well as newly engaged participants from the Forum. The Cross-Cutting Issue Discussion slides and Action Team posters are available on the County website at <http://county.milwaukee.gov/MHRedesign.htm>. There are also links to the data dashboard and photos from the event.

The next Task Force meeting will take place May 14 in the Day Hospital Cafeteria at the Mental Health Complex. Action Team meetings will be scheduled for the month of April and posted to the calendar on the website (<http://county.milwaukee.gov/MHRedesign/Calendar.htm>). The

first two public education and stigma reduction sessions (SMART Goal 2) will take place March 27 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Washington Park Senior Center.

Recommendation

This is an informational report. No action is necessary.



Héctor Colón, Director
Department of Health and Human Services

cc: County Executive Chris Abele
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Kelly Bablitch, County Board
Don Tyler, Director – DAS
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