

# Mental Health Redesign and Implementation Task Force

Milwaukee County Mental Health Complex

Room 1045

Thursday, July 14, 2011

3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Members: Karen Avery, Bevan Baker, Barbara Beckert, Cindy Bentley, Pete Carlson, Lee Carroll, Peg DuBord, Sarah Fraley, Scott Gelzer, Chris Hendrickson, Jon Lehrmann, Paula Lucey, Tom Nowak, Larry Pheifer, Yvonne Stueber, Joy Tapper, Tia Torhorst, Peggy Romo West, Brenda Wesley

Excused: Geri Lyday

Guests: Chris Abele, Jeff Bentoff, Rob Henken, Maureen McNally, Candice Owley, Joe Peterangelo, Steve Pietroske, Steve Schultze, Jim Tietjen, Jeff Weber

Staff: Jennifer Bergersen, Jeanne Carter, Jennifer Collins, Thomas Harding, Jerry Heer, David Johnson, Alex Kotze, Jim Kubicek, Laura Riggle, Jennifer Wittwer

## 1) Introductions

Ms. Lucey thanked and welcomed Task Force (TF) members and expressed special thanks to County Executive Chris Abele for attending. Ms. Lucey introduced BHD staff, Jeanne Carter and David Johnson, who will assist the TF. Attendees were invited to introduce themselves and describe one aspect of the mental health system in Milwaukee County that they perceived to be working well.

## 2) Comments

### a) County Executive Chris Abele:

Mr. Abele expressed gratitude to the TF members and excitement about the eager and optimistic sentiments that had been expressed in the preceding exercise. He noted the clarity of the challenges before the TF and the importance of employing useful metrics to assess how those challenges are met over the course of the TF's activities.

### b) County Supervisor Peggy Romo West:

Ms. West commended the work of the Community Advisory Board. She acknowledged a division among Milwaukee County supervisors over where to invest mental health resources, but expressed optimism that the TF would fulfill its purpose to take action and achieve positive outcomes. She commended BHD staff, and the Community Services Branch specifically, encouraging TF members to tour the Mental Health Complex. She concluded by inviting attendees to come to her with comments for the Committee on Health and Human Needs (HHN), on which she serves as chair.

### c) Barbara Beckert, Disability Rights Wisconsin:

Ms. Beckert thanked Supervisor West and the HHN Committee for its creation and support of the Community Advisory Board and listed a number of values that she hoped would guide the work of the TF, including consumer inclusion, diversity, and partnership between government and nongovernmental entities.

- d) Joy Tapper, Milwaukee Health Care Partnership:  
Ms. Tapper described the Task Force as a long-awaited opportunity to improve the mental health system and the importance of fostering a public-private partnership to that end, acknowledging the shared chairmanship of Mr. Carlson and Ms. Lucey as an example of that partnership.

3) Resources for Redesign

Binders were distributed to TF members containing documents pertinent to mental health redesign. Full versions of the longer documents are available as follows:

- HSRI Report:  
[http://www.hsri.org/files/uploads/publications/Milwaukee\\_Mental\\_Health\\_System\\_Redesign\\_Final\\_Report.pdf](http://www.hsri.org/files/uploads/publications/Milwaukee_Mental_Health_System_Redesign_Final_Report.pdf)
- Department of Audit:  
<http://county.milwaukee.gov/ImageLibrary/Groups/cntyAudit/Report1019.pdf>
- Follow-Up Report to BHD Administrator: Mixed-Gender Units:  
<http://county.milwaukee.gov/ImageLibrary/User/lgram/Mixed-GenderUnitFollow-upRepor.pdf>

Suggestions are welcome for additional materials to be included in the binders. A large-print version of the materials was requested and will be assembled by staff (Mr. Johnson) and available at the next meeting to those requesting in advance.

There was a question about the relationship of the New Behavioral Health Facility Study Committee to this entity. Ms. West explained that the work of the TF may be prioritized because of the need to effectively design the service mix before moving toward physical construction. Mr. Abele added that all parties should be engaged in order for negotiations over resources to progress smoothly. (Documents on the activities of the Facility committee – some of which have been included in the resource binder – can be accessed here: <http://county.milwaukee.gov/SCTFC/Other.htm>.)

4) Ground rules for Meetings

Mr. Carlson introduced the list of proposed Ground Rules (**attached .pdf**) for TF meetings and met no objections. Ms. Bentley added that members should use understandable, consumer-friendly language. Ms. West added that action steps should be initiated as soon as is practicable, following their approval by the Task Force.

5) Orientation to Recovery Principles

Ms. Avery gave a PowerPoint presentation on recovery principles (**attached .ppt**). Ms. Wesley affirmed the need for education about recovery and cautioned members against assuming a certain level of understanding of recovery principles among providers. Ms. Lucey asserted that recovery should be a central tenet of the redesign and that Ms. Avery's presentation was intended to set the tone for the work of the TF. Requests were made for additional reference materials on recovery, which Ms. Avery will provide, to be added to the resource binder.

6) HSRI report

Mr. Henken gave a presentation on the report entitled *Transforming the Adult Mental Health Care Delivery System in Milwaukee County* by the Human Services Research Institute (**attached .ppt**). Ms. Beckert asked for clarification of the first recommendation (re: downsizing inpatient capacity) and the importance ascribed to it by its ordinal placement. Mr. Henken noted that the recommendations were never intended to be read in rank order, but rather as a cohesive and interdependent set. Members concurred on the misinterpretation of the ordering of the HSRI recommendations and suggested that steps be

taken to avoid future misunderstandings. Ms. Lucey noted that HSRI was among a number of groups whose reports would be considered by the TF and that some HSRI recommendations were already being implemented to some degree.

7) Future meetings

The Task Force will reconvene on Thursday, August 11, 2011 at 3:00 p.m. at the Behavioral Health Division, 9455 Watertown Plank Road, Conference Room 1045, and on the second Thursday of subsequent months (unless otherwise announced). Agendas will be published in advance.