

Rice County Chemical Health Coalition Provider Team

February 10, 2010 12:00 to 1:30 pm

Present at the Meeting: Jody Anderson (West Hills Lodge), Elizabeth Bade (Northfield Public Schools), Gary Braun (Recovery School of Southern MN), Debbie Carter Barth (Project HOME), Shelly Cole (Family Focus), Warren Duncan (Hearth Connection), Dorothee Ischler (Center for Human Resources), Natalie Ginter (Rice County Public Health/SHIP project), Jenine Koziolk (Fountain Centers), Yvette Marthaler (Rice County Social Services – Rule 25 Assessor), Maynard Speece (Dakota County Detox), Ellen Unruh (SHIP Tobacco Project), Andy Yurek (Northfield Hospital), Zach Pruitt (staff support, Northfield Healthy Community Initiative), Kathy Sandberg (staff support, Rice County Family Services Collaborative).

Introductions and Updates:

- Natalie mentioned the initiatives of the SHIP (Statewide Health Improvement Project) effort. She shared information about various opportunities of the project, including mini-grants, cessation opportunities and worksite wellness coalitions.
- Maynard reported some state efforts around Consolidated Funds and the possibility of serious cuts. He also reported that the DSM V draft has been released.
- Ellen reported that the Four Corners project has just launched their website (www.4cornerspartnership.org). She also encouraged members to read a newly-released report on the tobacco industry (www.unfilteredmn.org).
- Gary reported that the Recovery School is serving 7 counties, including Rice County. Enrollment is currently at about 22 students with very low representation from Rice County. There was some discussion about the low response from Rice County and a suggestion about meeting directly with the student support services staff at local schools. Rice County Community Corrections was also mentioned as a possible audience for additional referrals.

Project HOME- Debbie Carter Barth/Warren Duncan:

The project serves five counties in Southern Minnesota and has a new expansion grant initiative specifically targeting chemical dependency services for people dealing with long-term homelessness. They provide funding for housing, as well as case management services. There is a capacity to serve 10 households in the region. Criteria include: frequent users of services; documented chronic addiction; and chronic homelessness. The project serves unaccompanied adults who have documented income at or below 30% of the Area Median Income. Debbie reviewed the information contained in the referral process information sheet.

The program focuses on the goals and needs that are expressed by the client. Chemical dependency is not always addressed immediately; harm reduction is always a part of the services. The program works to provide basic needs (food, shelter, etc.) before working on the issues of substance use.

Provider Team 2009 Year-End Evaluation:

Thanks to everyone who took time to complete the evaluation. Everyone should have received a copy of the results. The results reflect continued growth of and involvement in the group's work. Zach directed the group's attention to the responses in #7 for future work. Yvette noted the interest in mental health services and suggested the group could invite someone from Fernbrook to come to an upcoming meeting.

Halfway House:

The group welcomed Jody to the position of West Hills Lodge director beginning at the end of the month. Yvette reported some information from Judi and Ken Malecha expressing the hope for the halfway house to be up and running by fall. Ken has participated in meetings with the West Hills Lodge board. There was discussion about doing some work with the neighborhood and the community as the licensing process moves forward. Jody thought it might be helpful to engage the neighborhood in some beautification of the property. Others mentioned the possibility of a welcoming picnic, including a tour of the house. Natalie mentioned the idea of establishing a community garden on the property (potentially with funding from SHIP).

Feedback on Drug-Free Communities Work Plans:

Zach reminded the group that both Northfield and Faribault have federal Drug-Free Communities grants from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). Zach shared information about what is currently in the applications and welcomed suggestions from members as to other strategies to include. Dorothee mentioned the value of efforts directed at educating students about social-emotional skills and suggested that 5th grade students might be a good target. Dorothee also mentioned the need for a safe place/places for youth to go. Dorothee offered to contact Amy Merritt and bring back information.

Provider Team and Chemical Health Coalition Initiatives

Prescription Drug Disposal Campaign:

Zach updated the group on the work of this campaign. More than 700 pounds of drugs have been collected since the beginning of the project in September 2009. There is legislation currently in the Minnesota House that would put some financial responsibility back on pharmaceutical companies. There was a segment on WCCO's 10:00 p.m. news broadcast on Take It to The Box, which has attracted considerable interest from other communities. Mary Nelson continues to do an excellent job coordinating this project.

Adolescent Outpatient Treatment Group:

Sarah reported that the adolescent outpatient treatment group is averaging 8 to 9 clients per session. There was a suicide in the group recently, which was a very difficult, sad experience.

Transportation is going fine. Shelly commented that there should be more referrals based on what she is seeing in Faribault.

Buprenorphine:

The Northfield Hospital's Opiate Agonist Therapy Clinic continues to be busy. Questions were raised about what would happen if Dr. Reznikoff ever left the clinic. Andy mentioned a training program for physicians in Boston that was quite successful and that they have been studying. Perhaps it is once again time to promote this training with local physicians.

Sarah and Yvette mentioned that patients who are transitioning out of treatment and the struggle to get information. Yvette offered to learn more about the Boston program. Thanks to Northfield Hospital for their efforts!

Parent Support Group:

The group is still going and attendance varies quite a bit. The group still meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:30 at Omada. The next meeting will be March 2nd.

Next Provider Team Meeting

Wednesday, May 12, 2010 – Noon-1:30 p.m.

Northfield Community Resource Center – Room SS106