
Center for Addictions Research

Strengthening Treatment: Drug Abuse by Rural Youth Core Advisory Group Meeting April 26, 2002 Minutes

Present: Brandon Beaudry, Jim Behle, Becky Clayton, Jodi Gibson, Jim Hall, Mark Hovey, Diane Huber, Mary Larew, Doug Smith, Jim Swaim, Joan Vanden Berg, and Philip Wainwright.

Discussion: Assessment of current community needs

- Open discussion centered on general, procedural, structural questions, and information sharing. Iowa County is very rural. MECCA has suffered cutbacks, as have governmental agencies. MECCA is restructuring with a plan to re-institute intensive outpatient services for adolescents.
- Johnson and Iowa Counties plan to nearly double current treatment capacity and follow the Henggeler model for caseloads.

Discussion: Issues for further strategic planning and development of strategies/structures include:

- Latest demand beyond JCS or DHS
- Expansion of need for adolescents with any drug involvement or to any family member with substance abuse issues has volume/demand implications (capacity)
- Very few residential facilities in all of Iowa
- Need for prevention and aftercare, outreach and training.
- A structure is needed to plan for:
 - 1) Expected volume
 - 2) Expansion needs
 - 3) A determination of: *What is treatment?*
 - 4) Fee(s) for services
 - 5) Referrals and pathways of client flow
 - 6) Details of who, where, and to what depth/extent are assessments (or screening) conducted
 - 7) Hours of operation
 - 8) Incorporating family assessments
 - 9) Role of school liaisons (trackers)
 - 10) Getting services to Iowa County
- Presentations need to be made soon in Iowa County and to school superintendents and principals. Joan Vanden Berg will plan an outreach to teachers via a “summer academy”.

Discussion: MIS system

- Jim Hall outlined the MIS system, network of computers, and related equipment and software provisions in the grant. Major issues include:
 - 1) Consent forms for release of information. This will be complex. Each agency will be assisted to customize forms. Perhaps one form could be obtained as a starting point. Attorneys will be consulted.
 - 2) Clerical help is needed and they need to be trained in DHS forms/applications.
 - 3) A determination is needed about anonymous screening and options for school liaisons regarding assessments.

Discussion: Determining office location.

- A five-year up-front lease will be executed. Potential sites are being toured and evaluated.

Discussion: Personnel

- Applications are being accepted now for the overall Program Director and a financial/budget person. Panel interviews will be conducted in May.

New Business: Providers' Group Meeting

- The upcoming providers' group meeting was discussed. This is an ad hoc group formed to encourage progress on unmet needs for mental health services for youth in Johnson County.
- This is a logical group to serve as a community advisory board for our grant project. The addition of Iowa County stakeholders will be explored. Group members are to forward names and email addresses of potential new members to Jim Hall. Regular quarterly meetings were suggested.

Next meeting: June 7, 2002 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM at Juvenile Court Services offices.