
Center for Addictions Research

Strengthening Treatment: Drug Abuse by Rural Youth Core Advisory Group Meeting October 25, 2002 Minutes

Present: Brandon Beaudry, Elizabeth Curl, Jodi Gibson, Diane Huber, Polly Nichols, Bob Rohret, Doug Smith, Jim Swaim, and Cathy Willoughby.

Announcements

- A Disproportionate Minority Confinement conference will be held
- Copies of contact lists are available. If your information is not correct, please send it to carol-foster@uiowa.edu

Progress Report on Assessment Center

- Training sessions have started with the caseworkers for the center.
- Doug Smith explained how referrals would occur.
- IRB approval is required before opening. Jim Hall and Doug Smith are working on a revision and expect approval to be granted in the near future.
- One Pilot Project in the works is Shonna Negus' study regarding clients' experiences with services.
- The majority of the furniture has been delivered and is installed at the Assessment Center

Management Information System

- Several members of the committee attended Confidentiality training on October 14, 2002.
- Computers to use for assessment will be ordered in bulk to save money. Wiring problems at Pediatrics have stalled this process.
- An example of features desired for the MIS system would be a client bulletin board for the case- management team to communicate. It is imperative we work together on "needs assessment".
- All agreed that it might be beneficial to have the capability to communicate via resources like telemedicine (over the ICN). This could be another valuable tool, especially for service delivery in Iowa County.

Outreach

- A graduate assistant, Todd Kopelman, who has done work in the Iowa City school district, was hired to help with outreach.
- Trainings are to be developed for teachers to give them understanding and knowledge of the warning signs of abuse and services that are available. The end result here is more referrals being made to the assessment center.

Discussion: What substance-related topics would be useful?

- Brandon Beaudry stated that there is not a good representation from Iowa County. There was concern about traveling demands for Iowa County participants. He hopes we can get a commitment from CC-A to participate.

- Several members expressed concern that progress is not seen at this point and that might be the reason why participation has waned a little.
- The suggestion was made to talk with Pat Meyer or Brian Loring to find out how Tiffin started a Neighborhood Center.

Discussion: Referrals/Age Groups

- Jim Swaim commented that a good age group for referrals to the assessment center would be 12-17 and perhaps be expanded to include age 18.
- Jody Gibson added that 10-11 year olds might also require this service.

Discussion: Health Insurance

- Diane Huber commented that the assessment center will not be billing for assessments and added that referring agencies have their own criteria for services.
- Doug Smith said he will be attending a meeting with MECCA next week and will discover who has programs for treatment and identify what those programs are.
- The general consensus of those present is that we want to have as much access to services as possible.
- The group agreed they did not want to see the lack of insurance or Title 19 to be a barrier for treatment.

Discussion: Insurance Eligibility

- Jim Swaim noted that a lot of their referrals will not have parental involvement and is concerned that this will make their clients ineligible to participate. He added that in a past project with the nursing department this wasn't an issue.
- Doug Smith is trying to get a parental consent waiver. He asked for letters from groups or others to contact the IRB about this issue and how it might affect their agencies' clientele. Another point to take to the IRB is how kids don't acknowledge their problems voluntarily when they feel their parents are involved.

Discussion: Fees for treatment

- Everyone agreed that fees need to be equitable between all types of treatment so families don't feel they need to choose a type of treatment they feel they can afford or stop treatment because of the cost.

Discussion: Law Enforcement

- Everyone was asked to come up with ideas on involving local law enforcement agencies.

Discussion: Review of feedback from past meetings.

- The group agreed that future meetings would be more productive if more open and less structured. PowerPoint should be used sparingly to promote more discussion. Doug Smith discussed some feedback about having a centrally located meeting place and suggested meeting at the assessment center for the next advisory meeting.

Adjournment