

**Milwaukee Mental Health Task Force  
Meeting Minutes  
March 11, 2008**

**3pm – 5pm  
TLS – Transitional Living Services  
1040 S. 70<sup>th</sup> Street  
Milwaukee WI 53214**

**Present: Susan Adlam, Monica Allen, Barbara Beckert, Michelle Czuba, Colleen Dublinski, Natalie Heuss, Jim Hill, Peter Hoeffel, Carol Knabe, Joan Lawrence, Anne Luber, Jim Mathy, Jennifer Meden, Brad Montgomery, John Moore, Randy Neff, Mary Neubauer, Robin Pedersen, Martha Rasmus, Tom Reed, Julie Rothwell, Roseann Schmidt, Susan Schoenmarkln, Jeff Schwarz, Sandra Szabo, Mark Voelz, Marilyn Walczak, Jackie Wells, Brenda Wesley, Bob Wrenn, Tracy Wymelenberg**

ASK program – providing mental health issues and awareness in African American Community. Brenda Wesley has been hired to their staff. Congrats to her and to NAMI!

NAMI Walk – Greg Jennings and his wife have agreed to be the co-chairs and will be attending the event. May 17, 2008. At Veterans Park – handouts made available. The walks exist so they can continue to provide programs to the community at no cost. Last year they had 81 teams and they are hoping for more. There is no registration fee but they are hoping that people will raise money. Can raise money online and don't need to be at the walk.

Save the Date – Walk kick off luncheon – March 26th

**Updates, Group Discussion and Actions Needed –**

- Crisis Resource Center – minutes need to be corrected from last month. The grant that Joan Lawrence submitted to Blue Cross Blue Shield Healthy WI was for \$450,000 not \$50,000
  - They are working on filling the gaps in funding, they are accelerating some of the commitments to lengthen the time and they are looking at applying for other grants.
  - Next month we will have a full report.
  - Instead of having RN's on all shift they have MSW's and LPN's on third shift. No one has been terminated, three of the RN's have been given full time positions.
  - No one who has needed services have left without those services.
  - They have had approx 38 consumers so far
  - Next week the advisory committee will have a meeting to coordinate an outreach to all possible referral sources such as hospitals, etc.
  - They have a video tape of the CRC to help with outreach.
  - The first 6 month report has been submitted to Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and they've received the second installment of that grant.
  - Things are moving along well, but slower than they anticipated regarding the amount of consumers that are taking advantage of this.

- They have had more people in the last few days than they have in the past.
- They are taking self-referrals but they prefer that you call first.
- The website has guidelines on who can be served and a referral form.
- Summit III –
  - The person who will be best for this summit is Hank Stedman, has had a national career in fixing broken links between criminal justice system and mental health system
  - The May 15<sup>th</sup> date may have to be changed because he his not available
  - Trying to find a site because the Italian Community Center is not available.
  - If we can't find a site on a day that he can make the trip we will look for a new speaker.
  - Possible dates are May 19, 27 or June 4, 5, 10.
  - Send Peter ideas of professors that might want to be on the Mental Health Task Force.
  - Summit committee needs to get back together
- Empowerment Village
  - Went in front of city for a second time and was approved.
  - Going before Zoning and Neighborhood Development on April 3, at 9am.
  - Common Council April 9<sup>th</sup> at 9am city hall.
  - Write to your aldermen if you are in support, especially those on zoning
- Housing – West Samaria, City Housing Trust Fund, etc
  - Down to 9 residents outside of THP and Red Cross program
  - They are doing follow ups on everyone who moves out, and the Disability Rights WI worker is going out with them. Some are living in independent apartments, the hardest is moving the Red Cross and County programs to a new location. 20 beds a piece
  - The alderman is not supporting the ideas they have at this point
  - City Housing Trust Fund – drive to get 1 million dollars + in the ongoing city budget.
  - Next public event will be in May to send the Mayor a postcard with a penny saying don't be a penny wise and a pound foolish. Peter will send out information.
  - This year nothing is going to get funded with the Housing Trust Fund.
- Make It Work Milwaukee
  - Doing a lot of activities for April 1<sup>st</sup> election.
  - Identified some areas to focus on for 2008
    - Criminal Justice System –support work of Task Force
    - Economic Support situation at the county
    - Access to benefits at the county
    - Increasing revenue for mental health and AODA services
    - Transportation – finding a dedicated funding source.
- CIT and CIP
  - A class of CIT is being taught today for group home directors and staff
  - May 5 week, CIT for Milwaukee Police Training
  - On principle the new police chief is on board with the program
  - People in the community are very receptive.

- Group of 25 are taking the CIP
- SAIL
  - Walter Laux had agreed to have members of Mental Health Task Force to SAIL training. The training was helpful for those who went.
  - A lot of the heads of the SAIL department gave their contact information which was helpful. Peter will compile the information and send it out.
  - Also will ask if anyone wants to be on a SAIL workgroup
- Peer Support
  - Just had 6<sup>th</sup> training of 18 people
  - Looking at finding someone to train the trainer for peer support specialists that is not very expensive.
  - Won't be doing another training before the fall.
- Behavioral Health Providers Group
- Website
  - Hoping this can become communication when we can't have meetings. Right now people can post on forums, start forums, post other information and get minutes from the meeting
  - [www.milwaukeeemhtf.org](http://www.milwaukeeemhtf.org)
- Other Issues
  - SSDI people will be eligible for spending stimulus package, fill out form 1040A, have to file taxes. Between \$300-\$600
    - Peter will send something out
  - The hospital assessment reappeared in budget and that would take some money from hospitals and increase health programs in WI.
  - [www.stoptheshift.org](http://www.stoptheshift.org)
  - Mental Health Parody bill will pass the Senate Bill, will not pass the House. It excludes companies under 50, but includes government employees, etc.
  - This would be the floor and if WI had a better bill that would supersede it.
  - Collaborative group in town that is going to be submitting a proposal to close the addiction treatment gap.
  - There is a group working on putting together a human rights commission together. The Mayor's office said they could come in and tell them what this commission would look like.

## **Wrap Up**

Next Meeting – April 8 3pm-5pm at Transitional Living Services – 1040 S. 70<sup>th</sup> Street Milwaukee, WI 53214