

JOHNSTON COUNTY AREA MENTAL HEALTH BOARD MEETING

September 27, 2011

Present: Eleanor Creech, Jacqueline Lacy, Dr. Donna Merkwan, Karen Watkins, Carol Beaumont, Toshiko Preston, Andrea Johnson, Dr. Pat Harris

Absent: Chuck Hester, DeVan Barbour

Excused Absence(s): Maylon Baker, Derle Moore

Guest(s): Jason Phipps, Marie Dodson, Cassandra Williams-Herbert

Staff: Dr. Janis Nutt, Dr. Kumari Verghese, Jan Whitley, Pam Radford

Dr. Donna Merkwan, Chairperson, presided over the meeting which was held at 7:05 p.m. in the conference room at the Center.

MINUTES

1. Approval of Minutes - August 23, 2011 and September 6, 2011

Toshiko Preston made a motion that the minutes of the August 23, 2011 and September 6, 2011, meetings be tabled for approval until the next meeting. Eleanor Creech seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

2. Reports From Committees

(a) Support Committee - Derle Moore, Chairperson

(1) Financial Report - August, 2011

Jacqueline Lacy made a motion that the financial report for August, 2011, be approved as presented. Andrea Johnson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

(2) FY12 Contract Amendment(s) - Board Approval

(a) National Mentor Healthcare, LLC d/b/a North Carolina Mentor-Amendment #1

Eleanor Creech made a motion that this contract amendment be approved as presented. Karen Watkins seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

(3) FY12 Contract(s) - Information Sharing

(a) Pathways to Life, Inc.

(4) FY12 State Budget Reduction

Karen Watkins made a motion that the state budget reduction proposal be approved as presented. Jacqueline Lacy seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

(5) Bad Debt Write Off - 9/07/2011 - \$16,719.16 - Information Sharing

(b) Client Rights Committee - Carol Beaumont, Chairperson

Carol Beaumont reported that the Client Rights Committee met and reviewed the 3rd Quarter (January, February, March, 2011) Complaint Report. In addition, the Committee reviewed the 4th Quarter (April, May, June, 2011) Incident Report.

(c) CFAC Report

Jason Phipps, Co-Chair of CFAC, reported that the interlocal agreement has been reviewed with the Committee. Cassandra Williams, Co-Chair of CFAC, reported that the Recovery celebration was hosted at Johnston Community College with an attendance of over 200.

3. Report From Dr. Nutt

Dr. Janis Nutt informed the Board that the second site visit for the 1915 (b)(c) Medicaid waiver process was held today at the Durham Center for the "Single County Coalition." No time line for a final decision regarding approval/denial of the MCO status was announced, but members of the Single County Coalition are guardedly optimistic of the outcome.

Dr. Nutt updated the Board on the recommended 60-day moratorium on the contract between Johnston Health (JH) and Holly Hill Hospital to allow Johnston County Mental Health Center (JCMHC) and other community partners an opportunity to implement efficiencies and streamline processes in the Behavioral Health Unit. As of September 19th, Dr. Kumari Verghese has provided training for hospital and Mental Health Center staff who screen and place consumers regarding issues of medical necessity which determine appropriateness of admission and disposition from the Emergency Department (ED). Ruth Marler, Director of Clinical Operations for Johnston Health, has been instrumental in operationalizing, training, and communicating needed changes to front line hospital staff. Dr. Verghese reported to the Board that training of ED staff, all shifts, regarding involuntary commitments has been implemented. In addition, staff have begun to utilize a "bed board," a computerized system that shows hospital bed availability in the Eastern Region of the state, including Cherry Hospital. It is anticipated that use of this system will result in efficient placement for the consumers and help to decrease ED wait time. Dr. Nutt, Dr. Verghese and Ms. Marler are meeting regularly to assure good communication and streamlined processes between JCMHC and Johnston Health. The next project is to facilitate "direct admissions" by JCMHC Outpatient psychiatrists to the Behavioral Health Unit, bypassing the Emergency Department.

Dr. Nutt informed the Board that Representative Leo Daughtry, Ms. Marler, April Culver, Vice-President of Governmental Affairs of Johnston Health, Earl Marrett, Johnston DSS Director and she met with Secretary Lanier Cansler on August 31st to discuss 3-way bed funding. Dr. Nutt presented Secretary Cansler with an allocation letter received from the Division of Mental Health in FY09 stating that the 3-way bed funds were to be recurring; however, Johnston has only received this funding for that Fiscal Year. Secretary Cansler told the group that he would respond to the request within 30 days.

Dr. Nutt asked that the Board vote on two items regarding the relationship of JCMHC and Johnston Health.

First, she explained that JCMHC management has proposed a two-way public partnership between Johnston Health and JCMHC pending Board approval to pursue it. In this proposal, JCMHC will continue to provide the current level of services to

Johnston Health: a psychiatrist and social worker for the Behavioral Health Unit, licensed professional screening staff for ED during weekdays, psychiatric coverage of the ED both in Smithfield and Clayton, and the current level of after-hours psychiatric call for Johnston Health. In addition, JCMHC would provide the Medical Director for the Behavioral Health Unit. Several other targets to reduce the deficit for Johnston Health would be part of the proposal including indigent beds reduction of 5%, Medicare and Medicaid admissions increased by 2% and Johnston Health staff costs would be reduced by 5%. These target goals are not final at this point, and are currently being reviewed by all parties to assure that they are reasonable. This proposal would be in lieu of any contract with Holly Hill.

Jackie Lacy made a motion that the JCMHC pursue the proposal of the public partnership with Johnston Health as presented by Dr. Nutt. Eleanor Creech seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

The second item concerned JCMHC's current role and staffing contributions at Johnston Health, both in the Behavioral Health Unit and the ED, if the Johnston Health Board votes to contract with Holly Hill Hospital. Under the proposed contract, Johnston Health would pay Holly Hill, a private-for-profit organization, a management fee. It is the understanding of JCMHC management that JCMHC's current contributions to Johnston Health, (specifically Behavioral Health Unit Psychiatrist and Social Worker, ED clinicians screening weekdays in the ED, psychiatric coverage of the Crisis Stabilization Unit in the ED, and 80+% of after-hours psychiatric call coverage and coverage of Johnston Medical Center-Smithfield and Clayton ED's) would be the responsibility of Johnston Health and Holly Hill. Costs for these and other Behavioral Health staff would be directly reimbursed by Johnston Health to staff hired and managed by Holly Hill. Holly Hill management would have full authority over decisions regarding admissions for the Behavioral Health Unit. They have expressed the intention to "actively pursue state-funded placement (either Cherry Hospital or 3-way beds out of County)" for indigent adult consumers screened through the ED and needing to be hospitalized. This is of concern since JCMHC as the "public safety net" provider in the community has a high percentage of consumers with no third party payer source. When asked if JCMHC outpatient psychiatrists could admit those with third party payers to the Unit, Holly Hill Management responded that JCMHC admissions would not necessarily have priority even for paying consumers. Although Holly Hill has expressed willingness for JCMHC to continue to contribute resources to the BH Unit and ED, Dr. Nutt expressed concern to the Board that with so little control over staffing, treatment and disposition for Johnston County consumers, the substantial amount of public financial resources that currently go to support staffing in the partnership for Behavioral Health services between JCMHC and Johnston Health would be needed to develop alternative resources to prevent and manage crises and provide treatment for Johnston consumers.

Andrea Johnson made a motion that if the Holly Hill Hospital contract is approved by the Johnston Health Board, current JCMHC staff resources to the Behavior Health Unit and ED (both Smithfield and Clayton) be withdrawn in order to allow pursuit of other treatment and crisis prevention/management

alternatives for Johnston County consumers by JCMHC. Carol Beaumont seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

There being no further business, Eleanor Creech made a motion that the meeting be adjourned. Jacqueline Lacy seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Donna Merkwan, Ph.D., Chairperson
Johnston Area MH/DD/SAA



Angela Hinnant, Secretary
Johnston Area MH/DD/SAA