

Rochester Area Task Force on AIDS, Inc.

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SERVICES COMMITTEE AUGUST 3, 2006

MINUTES

Members Present:

Ramon Cintron, Ray Donovan, LJ Fisher, Wendy Mancuso, Annie Piazza, Nancy Prowell, Ellie Rivera, Lynn Varricchio, Danielle Wade, Ann Williams.

Excused: Joe Gentile, Jane Hallinen.

Announcements: Ray Donovan is leaving Rochester Rehab for a new position at PRALID on August 18th. He stated that during his interview, PRALID indicated that the head injury program had “quite a few patients with HIV/AIDS.” He hopes to be able to represent PRALID at RATFA. He is currently working with 35 clients, up from 4 when he started in January. Seven of the clients he has worked with have found employment, 7 have cases open at VESID. Everyone praised Ray for the great job he has been doing with PLWH/A finding employment and training for them.

Ray indicated that Debra Burke who was slated to do the workshop on employment has also left. Nayla Gaylord is the new supervisor. He has been urging to new person to replace him and follow through on the promised workshop for RATFA.

Ramon Cintron reported that Huther Doyle has developed a formal partnership with DePaul’s MainQuest Program. As a result HD visits the women’s program each week on Wednesday and the Men’s program on Monday. The agency is offering the inpatient case management services after they leave in-patient substance abuse treatment. Each Monday and Wednesday HD conducts testing at the site and ARI goes to the site once a week as well to conduct testing.

Wendy Mancuso distributed a new brochure prepared by VNS that describes their services. At this time ACHC is the only program that does nutrition counseling. However, free services are available through Cornell Cooperative Extension. VNS currently provides Meals on Wheels services to 15 people with HIV/AIDS. There has not been an open slot in the program, which has slot restrictions, for over a year. The agency does provide short term meals (1 month) for those being discharged from the hospital.

Lynn indicated that the Service Delivery Plan identifies nutrition counseling as a major unmet need, and asked whether it would be reasonable for staff at ARI or VNS to try to coordinate use of county or Cornell Cooperative Extension dieticians for assistance with nutritional counseling.

LJ Fisher indicated that Empire Justice has hired an additional attorney to do SSI, SSD eligibility work. She reported that they are trying to help those who are eligible move from State to Federal Medicaid. A problem that they are running into is that the Federal hearing officers are 18-22 months behind in SSI and SSD eligibility determination hearings. Lynn asked where pressure needs to be applied to help get the back log cleared up. We need to find out and address the cause of the back log if possible.

Sarah Gilmore of Empire Justice, who does disability rights, and civil rights issues is at ARI to see clients on the 1st Tuesday of the month.

Ann Williams and Annie Piazza reported that the Wills Clinic went very well. Another is slated for November. Eight people, including some from Geneva completed their legal papers.

Annie Piazza reported that she and another staff member took 3 clients to a farm market to get vegetables rather than providing the usual grocery bag. Annie said that such an outing requires 1-1 staffing.

ARI now has a COBRA Case management team to address the needs of more difficult patients.

On August 14th ARI will have Susan Hulse as a luncheon speaker to discuss women's health. The talk will be from 11:45AM-12:45 PM.

Annie indicated that on August 28th they will be having a celebration of client services. Clients are encouraged to take a moment and send a note of affirmation to their favorite case manager.

Nancy Prowell reported that ACHC has been undergoing some major system engineering issues. In the end there will be 3 teams consisting of a physician, a nurse practitioner, 2 case managers, and a receptionist. The intent is that people will be seen the same day or next day, and patient access and patient satisfaction and outcomes are expected to improve.

ACHC will have a fund raiser on Oct. 4th at the Monroe Gulf Club. Save the date.

ACHC currently has the following vacancies:

- Two case managers
- Pharmacy technician
- Marketing person
- 2 RNS for HIV/QUAL.

Old Business:

Follow-up on the matter of meeting with DSS for purposes of exploring the institution of FLACRA/Monroe County Model for minimizing the need for Medicaid Fair Hearing. It was decided that Trilby deJung from Empire Justice would be asked to take the lead on this activity. The following persons were recommended for the committee: Elaine Taylor ARI, Bill Fox FLACRA, Rose Cosme of Huther Doyle, Ramon Cintron Huther Doyle, and others who may be interested. Trilby will be asked to gather the group and gather data that exists on:

- The frequency that people from major AIDS programs are being taken off Medicaid;
- The reasons they are being removed;
- The number of fair hearings requested;
- The time it takes to get clients reenrolled;
- The outcome of their being re-instated;
- The types and frequency of negative health impacts caused by the churning.
- The frequency that people are disenrolled and re-enrolled in HMO managed care without their consent.
- The frequency with which DSS refuses to send a copy of notices concerning benefits to clients who cannot read or are otherwise impaired despite case manager requesting copies;
- How is Medicaid applying the "5 year rule."?

Given the time, the spirituality topic was tabled until next time.

Next Meeting: Thursday, September 7 at 8:30 AM at AIDS Rochester.