

Rochester Area Task Force on AIDS, Inc.

Finger Lakes Health Systems Agency

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Services /Advocacy

November 1, 2007

Minutes

SERVICES

Services Members Present: Heidi Donner, Bill Fox, Vanessa Johnson, Annie Piazza, Anthony Porter, Ron Skwieralski, Patricia Terziani, Ann Williams.

Staff: Pat Zacharias.

Agency Updates:

- **FLACRA** – have an opening for a Medical Director. Substance Abuse Clinical Training from 9:00am – Noon on the 4th Wednesday of most months. Next one will be held in January. Contact Bill Fox at FLACRA for details.
- **Catholic Charities** - have hired a youth specialist and an art specialist.
- **ACHC** – filled the Case Manager position and have hired a full time IT person.
- **ABC** – will be holding a testing day on December 3.
- **Huther Doyle** – in collaboration with DePaul has received an expansion grant to allow them to have a case manager and outreach worker on site at DePaul's detox facility.
- **VLSP** – has a new brochure. Will be holding another Wills Clinic at ARI. For more information contact Ann Williams or Julie Petroske at 585-232-3051.
- **RATFA** – the next General Meeting will be Tuesday, November 13 at 10:30 am at the Lewis Street Commons in Geneva. This will be an open forum on HIV in the Rural Communities. The World AIDS Day Luncheon will be Friday, December 7 from Noon – 2:00 pm at the Wishing Well. Invitations will be sent this week.

Announcements:

November 17th is National Survivors of Suicide Day. Noon – 5:00 pm. Two local web conference sites will be at the VA in Canandaigua and the University of Rochester.

JOINT MEETING

Review of Minutes:

Ron Skwieralski's name should be removed from the Advocacy attendance as he is a member of Services. With that change Calvin motioned that the minutes be approved and Sr. Gratia seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

Revised Medicaid Churning Form:

Catherine distributed the final edition of the form. The committee had a couple of small suggestions: line 5 should be a subset of line 4 and line 6 should become 5; the agency name, Empire Justice, should be added to the contact information; and a note should be made to attach the information release form.

The forms will be handed out to case managers as the sub committee meets with them to explain how to use the form. Also a self addressed envelope will accompany the each form. The forms will be distributed in November and December and the data will be collected through March 31, 2008.

The sub committee will review the data and report it to the Services Committee who will in turn report to the Advocacy Committee along with background data so that Advocacy can spearhead any action needed.

Future Training:

Sometime in last week of March Empire Justice will provide a presentation on Public Programs (Child Health Plus, Family Health Plus, ADAP & Medicaid) for all case managers. More information will follow.

Meeting Schedule:

The Committees decided that there is no longer a need to meet jointly. In April they will meet jointly to review the results of the Medicaid Churning project. But until that time they will resume their individual meeting schedules.

ADVOCACY

Members Present: Allison Bates, Roberto Burgos, Trilby deJung, Catherine James, Debra Khani, Sr. Gratia L'Eseprance, Patricia Terziani, and Calvin Twoguns.

Issues & Concerns:

Sr. Gratia updated the committee on the burial for indigents problem. In March of 2006 the burial amount was reduced from \$1850 to \$1250 and only covers cremation. This is a major problem for those with certain religious or cultural beliefs. The person appointed to be the Burial Coordinator is not a social worker but rather a businessman. There is supposed to be a Community Burial Fund to help with this but it is not being used.

Calvin brought up the question "Does NYAC represent Upstate NY" also or just the area around the city? Since the Network Coordinator (Steve Waldron) from Central

NY is on NYAC's Board it would be good to have a conversation with him. Pat volunteered to ask both Steve and Andy Keiner (Network Coordinator from Buffalo) what they see as the issues in their areas and whether they think NYAC is accurately representing them.

District Visits:

The committee agreed that they would like Wade Norwood at their next meeting to plan a strategy for District Visits. Pat will inform Wade. Roberto informed the group that after the election the county legislature could change.

Next Service Meeting:

Thursday, January 3 at 8:30 am at AIDS Rochester.

Next Advocacy Meeting:

Monday, November 19 at 9:00 am at FLHSA.