

RI Coalition for the Homeless
Learning Group II: Strengthening the Coalition and its Members
Meeting Minutes July 20, 2010

Date: July 20, 2010, 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., RICH, 1070 Main Street, Pawtucket, RI 02860

Present: Don Laliberte, Russ Partridge, Diana Dumin, Diana Burdett, Don Anderson, Kamila Barzykowski, Janice Lavalley Fisher, Linda Barden, Taylor Ellowitz, LeeAnn Byrne, Chris Stephens, Rev. Mary Margaret Earl, Brenda Clement, Laura Jaworski and Lenny Chen.

Absent: Linda Watkins, Anne Nolan, Tom Miller, Amy Rainone, Meg Kerr, Andrew Shiff

Consultant Facilitator: M.J. Kaplan **Staff Liaison:** Jim Ryczek **Notes:** Connie Vergowven

Welcome and Introductions: M.J. Kaplan: welcome, review of last meeting and follow up to last meeting. J. Ryczek set up a meeting for executive directors and senior staff on July 22nd as a follow up to the last LGII meeting. M.J. Kaplan asked all members at the last meeting to identify one or two agencies that they could approach to begin the process of building connections, M.J. Kaplan asked for reports back on this process. M.J. Kaplan checked in for reasons/barriers to getting out and making connections, if members were not able to do this. M.J. Kaplan asks all members to be proactive and intentional about outreach during the next month.

M.J. Kaplan: review the agenda questions:

Question 1: In what ways can RICH support agencies to improve capacity (staffing relative to client needs) and best practices for case management?

Question 2: How can RICH support all members and stakeholders to take an active role in advocacy in order for the sector to be more successful at securing needed resources and policies?

There was a review and an open discussion around the handout given to members:

Current outlines/suggestions for case management (CM):

- Keep up on mental health services
- Streamline services
- Stronger clinical skills Re: treatment plans
- Office of Homelessness: measures efficiency of CM's

Best practice discussion included:

Look at Housing Network in regards to housing counselors. Current topics include:

- Train the trainer

- Train constituents
- Centralized training also tied to budget/funding stream
- Tie CM standards to credits

Discussion continued around barriers that agencies face if CM's leave for a day of training and different ways that CM's training can be delivered. Some suggestions included:

- Online training
- SHPN meetings
- CM institute at Rhode Island College
- Identify scholarship funds

Needs of CM's:

- Mental health system modules
- Needs profile of skills/competency
- Buy slots in the Mental Health programs/trainings
- RICH: scholarship for slots
- Some agencies do trainings as required by accreditation
- On-line programs
- Collaborative benefits (save slots for others)

Clarify Profile/Inventory
Case managers/needs for individual
Research existing affordable modules: Internet/in-person
<u>Sub-options</u> Underwrite costs Coordinate in-person offerings on specific topics

Can by-pass the first block and skip to the CM needs

Smaller agencies could use students as volunteers. Group members talk about different ways of doing this:

- RICH could coordinate MSW students; students are available 20-24 hours per week

- MSW students could be brought in as volunteer coordinators (M.J. Kaplan spoke about an agency who used MSW student with supervision as staff)
- Look at using students from a different perspective; see it from an investment perspective
- Opportunities for trainings for the student interns

Needs for current CM's and new hires:

- Peer group; sharing information
- Self care trainings
- Meetings for CM's could be regionalized
- Respite day/relationship building for CM's and others at agencies
- Parenting skills trainings
- Database for new CM's; access to community resources
- Mentoring peer-to-peer

M.J. Kaplan: would like the group to devote the next meeting to the advocacy question. Please remember to buddy up if you were not at the last meeting.

Next meeting: September 1, 2010, 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. at the RICH office 1070 Main Street, Pawtucket, Rhode Island 02860

Respectfully submitted by: Constance Vergowven