

Connecticut Workgroup on Challenging Behaviors
Full Workgroup Meeting Minutes – 4/26/05
25 Sigourney Street, Hartford

Members in attendance: Ruth Barbour, Rick Brown, Teresa Cusano, Maggie Ewald, Jennifer Glick, Joe Ierna, Gene Hickey, Jennifer Keyes, Waldo Klein, Cristina MacGillis, Michael Michalski, Cher Michaud, Julie Robison, Jan Van Tassel, Theresa Velenzas, Laurel Wood.

Following introductions, Teresa Cusano opened the meeting by congratulating the group on its one-year anniversary. She thanked all members for their hard work and dedication to the Workgroup's mission.

Next, the three subcommittees provided updates on activities.

Policy Committee – Maggie Ewald provided an overview of legislative activity and discussed the status of proposals stemming from the Workgroup's position paper and recommendations.

A discussion followed regarding follow up on recommendations and planning for future advocacy by relevant committees. The following lead assignments from the last full workgroup meeting were reviewed:

Recommendation

# 1 - regarding best practices	Care & Case Discussion
# 2 - regarding special care units/assessment	Care & Case/OLR
# 3 - regarding special care units/disclosure	Policy
# 4 - regarding quality of care/rate reimbursement	Policy
# 5 - regarding CIT pilot	Policy
# 6 - regarding provider education	Training
# 7 - regarding LPN/CNA curricula	Training
# 8 - regarding in-servicing standards	Training
# 9 - regarding PASRR	
a. Reinstate PASRR	Full workgroup (support DMHAS proposal)
b. DSS/DMHAS/DMR review	Policy
c. DPH survey/determination reviews	Policy
d. Home/community based waivers	Policy

Regarding recommendation 9a, Jennifer Glick noted that DMHAS proposal does not look promising for this legislative session.

Pertaining to the PAS/RR Review proposal, Teresa Cusano urged the group to consider advocating for incremental changes, noting that there may be a better chance for success where budgetary concerns are barriers. Jan VanTassel asked for clarification as to the purpose of the recommendations and commented that each one should have an action plan consistent with its desired outcome.

Training Committee – Theresa Velenzas reported on planning for the next educational conference slated for August 10, 2005. As planned, the conference will target more Administrators, but will include Directors of Nursing, and Social Workers. The group agreed to have Dr. Lennox as the keynote speaker based on information gathered prior to

the meeting as well as testimonials from various workgroup members familiar with this speaker. Dr. Lennox will present his keynote address on why managing challenging behaviors is good business and a better decision for the bottom line. In addition, he will discuss the importance of staff training and culture change from a manager's perspective in accomplishing these goals. Dr. Lennox will also offer an am and pm workshop. The workshop will be about "behavioral rounds", what a good agenda should look like and will incorporate case scenarios, with incident reports, as well as nurse's notes on the incident for the breakout groups to discuss. CEU applications will need updating for nurses and social workers. CEUs will also be provided to administrators.

Care and Case Discussion Committee – Michael Michalski reported that the committee has not had a tremendous amount of activity recently due in part to some changes in membership. In addition to resuming regular meetings and activities, the group will be beginning work on a best practices booklet. Any Workgroup member interested in joining the Care and Case Discussion Committee may contact our newly formed Membership Committee after 5/17/05.

Following committee reports, a discussion of recent changes in Workgroup representation and committee assignments ensued. Members debated the idea of a membership committee to address questions of member recruitment, organizational representation, and committee assignments.

A Membership Committee was established with the following members volunteering (or being nominated) to serve: Rick Brown, Laurel Wood, Karen Weingrod, Theresa Velendzas, Jennifer Glick.

It was further noted the Lynn MacLean, now working with the Pioneers, will continue her membership and serve on the Training Committee.

Teresa Cusano urged all members to contact legislators and continue advocating on the recommendations for the CIT Pilot. Jennifer Keyes will develop a listing of Appropriations Committee members and contact information for distribution to the Workgroup via email.

Future meeting dates as follows:

Policy Committee at CAHCF (Rick's office) – **Wednesday, May 11th at 9:00a.m.**

Training Committee at DSS/Central Office – **Monday, May 16th at 10:00a.m.**

Please note that the newly formed **Membership Committee** will meet immediately following the Training Committee meeting at **11:15a.m.**

Care and Case Discussion Committee at the IOL – **Wednesday, May 25th at 9:30a.m.**

The next meeting of the full workgroup will be at DSS/Central Office on **Wednesday, June 29th at 9:30a.m.**

Submitted 5/6/05
J. Keyes
LTCOP Consultant