

**HOUSING AND HEALTH SERVICES COORDINATION COUNCIL  
CROSS AGENCY EDUCATION & TRAINING COMMITTEE**

**Conference Call  
Meeting Minutes  
April 22nd, 2010 10:30am**

**CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL**

Ashley Schweickart, Council Coordinator called the conference call to order at approximately 10:30am.

**Members Present:**

Sherrí Gothart-Barron, Chair  
Mark Wyatt, Member  
Nick Dauster, Member  
Amy Granberry, Member  
Doni Van Ryswyk, Member  
Kenneth Darden, Member

**TDHCA Staff Present:**

Elizabeth Yevich  
Ashley Schweickart  
Marshall Mitchell

**Approval of April 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting Minutes**

Ashley Schweickart asked for any changes regarding the April 6<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes. There being none, a motion was made and the minutes were approved unanimously.

**Invited Testimony: Local Provider Networks**

Based on the April 6<sup>th</sup> committee meeting discussion regarding Chapter 8 of the Biennial Plan (Training and Technical Assistance to Local Entities), Ashley Schweickart gave a brief report on the research efforts of the Council staff and asked if there were any additional research requests. Doni Van Ryswyk requested that staff analyze online assessment tools such as YourTexasBenefits.com and BenefitsCheckup.com for the possibility of adding housing content to those sites.

**Discussion of Chapter Five of Biennial Plan: Identifying Coordination Barriers**

Committee members started discussion by stating that the lack of standardization in the administration of programs amongst service providers and between different geographic regions of the state. They also discussed the lack of information sharing amongst housing organizations and service organizations leaves a gap in the knowledge base of an average case worker helping consumers get assistance.

The Committee then discussed the how the piecemeal access to multiple services (especially for those with co-occurring needs) jeopardizes the ability for consumers to remaining living in a community based setting. Part of this has to do with the separation in the organizations that each agency contracts with – each has their own set of sub-recipients. Additionally, the structuring of RFPs, NOFAs, and contracts makes in hard for a local provider to coordinate multiple agency funding streams.

The Committee next discussed the fact that state agency outreach and training efforts are siloed, with no incentive or time to coordinate website materials or informational brochures, unless an MOU is created. Funding is also siloed, with regulations restricting the partnership between multiple agencies in administering program funds.

The Committee then discussed how the result of these silos is that agency staff isn't aware of what already exists at other agencies and depending on who answers a consumer call, that consumer could get a wide range of information, including incorrect referrals or missed opportunities for referral. Federal program fragmentation creates this tunnel vision and limits the cross-agency training or experience of staff. If it's not part of the main duties of staff and if there is no funding to support inter-agency education, then it won't happen.

The Committee then discussed how agency cultures have to be re-oriented to encourage and promote cross-agency education and information sharing. If a tangible product (website/brochure/PowerPoint) about another agency could be given to staff, it will be much easier to educate them. However, the lack of a prioritization of funding for education and outreach still presents a barrier.

The Committee then discussed how housing entities and their staff are not compelled to attend meetings of health and human services provider. For example, Community Transition Teams meet once a month to help nursing home clients return to the community and PHAs very rarely attend. This is likely due to the lack of incentives for them to participate.

The Council concluded the discussion by stating that the challenge is to demonstrate value for all players and provide incentives, such as continuing education units, to incentivize participation and formation of partnerships.

#### **Discussion of Staff Research Assignments**

- Look into Jodi Park's TACIL handout as a best practice for explaining various programs and who benefits from each.
- Find out if any other states are embarking on similar cross-agency coordination efforts
- Look into online screening tools used by DADS programs

#### **Discussion of Next Steps for Committee**

Committee discussed that their next conference call meeting will take place on Thursday, May 6th, 2010 at 10:30am.

They also discussed that the upcoming full Council meeting will take place on Monday, May 10, 2010 at 10:00am.

#### **ADJOURN**

Since there was no other business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 11:50am on April 22nd, 2010.