



Minutes DRAFT  
State Health Services Council Work Session  
Department of State Health Services (DSHS)  
Robert E. Moreton Building, M-739  
1100 W. 49<sup>th</sup> Street, Austin, Texas  
Tuesday, December 2, 2008  
9:00 a.m.

Chair's Welcome and Introduction of Guests: Ms. Kane called the meeting to order at 9:05 am

Members Present:

Ms. Glenda Kane, Chair – Corpus Christi  
Dr. Rudy Arredondo – Lubbock  
Ms. Beverly Barron – Odessa  
Ms. Graciela Cigarroa – San Antonio  
Dr. Lewis Foxhall – Houston  
Dr. Jacinto Juarez – Laredo  
Dr. David Woolweaver – Harlingen  
Dr. Kirk Calhoun – Tyler

Not Present:

Dr. Jeffrey Ross – Houston

Visitors:

Sue Davis, Ivonne Tapia, Stevie Hansen, Benton Carey, Susan Erwin, Peter Weiss, Danette Castle, Patel Elroy, Robin Plan, Eric Sanchez, Josette Saxton, Lynn Hershey, Cindy Wier, Larry Churn, Leonard Kincaid, Stephany Bryan, Geoff Loicut, Linda Pate, Sandi Ryan, Cliff Gay, Cathey Brown, Gyl Wadge, Fred Mitchell, Doug Denton, Lisa Payne, Wendy Goyens, Julie Wisdom-Wild, Marisa Finley, Vicky Coffee-Fletcher, Terry Cowan

Agenda Item #1: Mental Health Transformation (MHT) Grant and Progress to Date.

Sam Shore, Director of Mental Health Transformation provided an overview of the MHT Initiative. Further information is available at: [MHtransformation.org](http://MHtransformation.org). The MHT Grants Initiative is a follow up to a program started in 2005 under the New Freedom Commission on Mental Health. Texas had three members on the New Freedom Commission. The Transformation Work Group (TWG) was appointed by the Governor. The group was charged with transforming Texas' statewide mental health system. This is

a nationwide program. Texas is one of nine states that was awarded this grant. This is an infrastructure grant only, does not fund mental health services. Six guidelines that will be followed nationwide were developed. The presentation can be found at:

[www.dshs.state.tx.us/council/agenda.shtm](http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/council/agenda.shtm).

Texas is using the Transformation Grant to focus on public mental health, with the main goal being to improve the mental health of all citizens. Texas is being very strategic in considering resources to ensure that programs will be sustainable. The intent is to tap into existing resources so that when funding from the grant goes away, there will be sustaining resources.

Mr. Shore introduced Stephany Bryan, who represents the Consumer Workgroup. Results of this initiative will impact the consumers of the state. Group role is to develop relationships within the community. The trend across the nation is lending itself to be more inclusive of youth and to have no age disparities. Texas Workforce Integration Group (TWIG) incorporates family members in group. Purpose is to work in partnership with consumers, family members and youth to help them understand that they do have an illness, but they are not the illness, there is help for them and to help them be part of the solution, not a part of the problem.

Sam Shore introduced Dr. Kathryn Cotrla, who represented the Veterans Workgroup. Purpose of this group is to address the needs of veterans resulting from the unprecedented amounts of combat exposure. Dr. Cotrla addressed the needs of veterans and services available. Many veterans, who come back with issues, do not seek services. The greatest need is to leverage federal, state, local and private resources and pull all resources together and not depend on a single silo agency to get it done. Recommendations from this group include: continued support for Texas military forces on workforce issues, hire veterans to talk to veterans through peer outreach, facilitate access of eligibility information to all groups, provide training to peers and other connectors provide evidence based treatment training, and collaborate with partners across Texas framework to discuss emerging issues.

Glenda Kane offered to assist to facilitate the work being done.

Sam Shore introduced Vicky Coffee-Fletcher, who discussed Workforce Issues. The workforce in the area of mental health is insufficient. This group looks at significant barriers to having adequate professionals in this field. Other issue is updating professionals with continuing education so that they are aware of the most up to date modalities. Goals are: to coordinate training opportunities across agencies, collaborate with university and college partners so that universities are providing necessary training in health areas, and expand workforce scope of practice to include law enforcement, and child education agencies, etc.

Agenda Item#2: Dr. Lakey provided a brief update on priorities and exceptional items for the upcoming legislative session. The full presentation was moved to January 2009. A copy of the presentation is available at <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/council/agenda.shtm>.

Agenda Item #3: Assistant Commissioner Mike Maples was scheduled to provide an update on Mental Health and Substance Abuse Exceptional Items This item was tabled for a future meeting.

Agenda Item #4: Glenda Kane led a discussion on Provider and Consumer Perspective on Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services in Texas.

Invited testimony was taken from providers and consumer groups to gain their perspective on mental health and substance abuse services in Texas.

Danette Castle, Chief Executive Officer of Texas Council of Community MHMR Centers, spoke on the provider perspective on mental health services.

Cliff Gay, Mental Health Planning and Advisory Council, spoke on the consumer perspective of mental health services. Mr. Gay supports DSHS LAR Exceptional Item 9 because it speaks to recovery. He would like to see more funding dedicated to caregivers and peer support groups.

Cathey Brown, Rainbow Days and Association of Substance Abuse Programs, spoke on the provider perspective on substance abuse services.

Stevie Hansen discussed the consumer perspective of substance abuse services. Ms. Hansen detailed her history and her recovery.

Agenda Item #5: General Public Comment provided by:  
Sue Davis, Doug Denton, Peter Weiss, Dr. Patrick Clancey, Susan Erwin, Dick Spalding, Leonard Kincaid, Ivonne Tapia, Lisa Poynor and Gyl Wadge.

Dr Juarez moved for adjournment and Ms. Barron seconded the motion

Adjournment: Ms. Kane adjourned the Council meeting at 12:52 p.m.

Next Council meeting will be January 29, 2009

Glenda Kane, Chair

Date Approved by Council

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