



**Community  
Health  
Improvement  
Partners**

**BEHAVIORAL HEALTH WORK TEAM  
Meeting Minutes**

**Salvation Army Door of Hope  
2799 Health Center Drive  
San Diego, CA 92123**

**March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2009, 8:30am-10:00am**

*(Although the street address is Health Center Drive, turn East on Vista Hill Drive off of Health Center Drive. Door of Hope entrance will be on your right)*

**Attendees**

- Laura Andrews, Mental Health America of SD
- Francine Anzalone-Byrd, CASBIRT
- Bob Brooks, NAMI North Coastal
- Angela Carrillo, Sharp Mesa Vista (Co-Chair)
- Dr. Ruth Covell, UCSD School of Medicine (Co-Chair)
- Lynnetta Devereaux, Alvarado Parkway Institute
- Jim Dunford, MD, Medical Director, City of San Diego, Emergency Medicine UCSD
- Aron Fleck, Community Health Improvement Partners
- Liz Kruidenier, MN MH Forum, NAMI North Coastal
- Jalene Nardella, MFT, Shakti Rising
- Carmen Perez, Phoenix House
- Ian Rosengarten, SDCBHS
- Harriett Stupp, UBH
- Kerin Watts, San Diego Fire Department

I. Introductions / Networking:

A suggestion was made that the address and brief directions be added to the agenda to minimize confusion on how to get to the meeting location.

Jalene Nardella of Shakti Rising was unable to stay for the entire meeting, but gave a synopsis of their program and announced that "Love Your Life Day" will be held on Saturday March 14th from 1pm -4pm at SHAKTI Rising. Aron Fleck offered to send the event out with the BHWT announcements by the end of the week.

II. Approval of Minutes:

Minutes were approved. Ian Rosengarten added that the announcements and meeting reminders that CHIP has been distributing have been very efficient and helpful.

III. Presentation:

From this point forward, starting with Dr. Dunford's presentation, we never really returned to the agenda but had a great discussion about how the BHWT could effectively address the frequent user issue. We tried to address all areas of the discussion in the minutes below.

a. San Diego Frequent Users

James Dunford, MD

In this frustrating and inefficient healthcare environment, there are a lot of people using the Emergency Department (ED) and the system for their primary medical care and/or temporary housing.

10 years ago, the county, started the Serial Inebriate Program (SIP) to address the problem for people who suffer from chronic alcoholism and homelessness. Many of SIP's population also have mental disorders and are in and out of jail, detox and shelters. The federal government is now taking note of this problem and possibly funding innovations in this area (SAMHSA).

In 2007 compiled data that showed 900 people at UCSD who had had gone to the ED frequently. These frequent users made up 11% of ED visits and considerable hospital resources. One individual, in particular, had made over 100 visits to the ED in the last year, all involving 911 and ambulance transportation; very costly.

The California Endowment and the California HealthCare Foundation funded 6 pilot programs throughout the state to work on this issue. These pilot projects resulted in decreased ED usage as much as 60%! There are proven practices that can be used to address the issue, but San Diego needs a focused, collaborative effort to address them.

Dr. Dunford also explained that there is a new, unfunded mandate that each patient has a discharge plan in effect when they leave the hospital. Because there is little care coordination of these patients and resources to do the job correctly, there have been instances where the discharge plan simply states, "Called the HOT team." This does nothing to solve the problem and a better system needs to be put in place. They need to have somewhere to go.

The SIP program is only court ordered. Therefore, not everyone who needs to the help of the program is eligible. Dr. Dunford spoke of a case where a person needed help so badly that they convinced him to be arrested to gain access to the program.

Dr. Dunford was asked, "In your opinion, are all areas of the county collaborating together on this issue or is it fragmented?" His answered was that in his opinion, and despite all his efforts, the county was still fragmented.

(Note: a number of links to frequent user articles had been distributed to the work group)

#### IV. 2009 Work Plan Continued:

- a. Community Health Improvement Partners Organizational Structure Aron Fleck

Everyone received the CHIP organizational chart, board members list for 2009 and staffing organizational chart. Since we were only able to briefly go over these items during the meeting, the group was encouraged to take a look at these documents and contact A Fleck if there are any questions.

- b. Ideas From February 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting All

Several Ideas were brought up last meeting. A poster board was provided to help guide the brainstorming process. Items include the following:

- Focus On Emergency Departments
- Partner With Healthy San Diego
- Learn More About Frequent Users
- Safe Housing
- Behavioral Health "Urgent Care" Concept
- Additional Beds For Emergency Departments To Discharge To
- Expand SHARI—"Type" Programs

- Comprehensive Referral System

It was also discussed that there are few key people that the group may want to hear from as we develop our work plan. These people include (Spelling of names not guaranteed):

- James Dunford
- Margaret McCahill
- Dick Conklin
- Jayne Frye
- Ronda Gibbs
- Kathy Rose
- George Scolari
- Ray Schwartz
- Judith Yates
- Tamara Stark
- David Folsom

c. Safe Housing Presentation

Angela Carrillo

We never really got to an official presentation, but through the course of the discussion, A Carrillo provided the Work Team with a one-pager outlining the link between frequent users in a community and having adequate, safe living facilities. There is support in the behavioral health community and for the concept of developing standards for independent living sites and a referral program. It is recommended that housing should be one of the areas that the BHWT should look at in developing its future work plan. (See Attached).

d. Idea Brainstorming

All

In light of the day's discussion and the focus areas determined by the strategic planning process, A Fleck proposed an idea to the group; should we consider taking the problem up one level and focus on the entire frequent users issue? It would give us the opportunity to take the lead in coordinating the county efforts and bring in partners we have not seen at the table, e.g. housing (which we have been talking about) and law enforcement.

The BHWT will continue to explore the possibilities and discussion at the next meeting.

V. Other Announcements/Sharing

a. CASBIRT Update

Francine Anzalone-Byrd

Since Supportive housing is one of the key issues, Angela Carrillo suggested that we should invite Karenlee Robinson, Jayne Frye, Ronda Gibbs, Kathy Rose, Ray Schwartz, Mary Jo O'Brian to the next meeting.

VI. Next Meeting: April 9, 2009

**Thank you for your support and participation!**