

Steering Committee Meeting Notes

Friday, December 9, 2011

3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

CHRT Conference Room

Steering Committee Members Present: Robert Casalou, Robert Guenzel, Lakshmi Halasyamani, Norman Herbert, Deb Jackson, Peter Jacobson, Robert Laverty, Monique Reeves, Brent Williams

Absent: Paul Harkaway, Robert McDivitt, Doug Strong

Work Group Chairs Present: Gregory Dalack, Ellen Rabinowitz, Liz Conlin

Guests Present: Randy Ritter

Staff Present: Marianne Udow-Phillips, Nancy Baum, Patrice Eller, Josh Fangmeier, Heather Guenther, Babette Levy, Melissa Riba, Carrie Rheingans

Introductions:

Steering committee members and Work Group Chairs introduced themselves.

Review of Structure/Charter Communication:

Committee members reviewed the communication that detailed the new WHI structure and outlines the Charter for 2012. This material will be sent to all Planning Group members. Suggested edits were provided and will be made before sending the communication the week of December 12.

Funding Next Steps Discussion:

A subcommittee including Robert Casalou, Robert Guenzel, Norman Herbert, Deb Jackson, Robert Laverty, Doug Strong, and Marianne Udow-Phillips, met to discuss how to provide financial support to the work groups. The group recommended that the Steering Committee follow a two-step process for any implementation or work group that felt it needed funds for its initiative: first, the subcommittee would invite the implementation leads to meet to review financial needs and proposals. Once relevant information was then developed by the implementation leads, the subcommittee would review that additional information and discuss possible funding strategies with the full steering committee as appropriate. Key points are for the funding subcommittee to stay flexible, small, and for it to meet on an ad hoc basis.

Additionally, some Steering Committee members will begin acting on the recommendations of Rob Collier and start opening the lines of communication with various foundations across Michigan to be approached when funding needs arise. First steps will be to have discussions with the Kellogg Foundation, the Kresge Foundation, and the Southeast Michigan Community Foundation beginning in early 2012.

Funding received or committed to date includes \$30,000 from each UMHS, SJMHS; \$18,000 from the Washtenaw United Way; \$5,000 from the Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation; and a \$5,500 in personal donations.

CHRT is applying for a Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Health Innovations grant, due 1/27/2012, to fund one or two WHI implementation projects. Letters of intent are due December 19, and CHRT will submit one for each individual project and one for a combined project, but will only likely submit one final proposal in January. Projects under consideration are the “Mental Health Primary Care Integration” and the “Care Navigation/BlueCaid Pilot” projects, with partners from UMHS Psychiatry and BlueCaid. The funding range is between \$1-\$30 million over three years, and CHRT would be the fiscal agent for the project.

Work Group Status Reports:

Gregory Dalack, Co-Chair of the Mental Health and Substance Use Care Work Group: the MH/SU Work Group had its first Work Group meeting under the new structure on 12/8. The group is working on gathering data to assess gaps in mental health care in order to proceed in prioritizing what implementation projects to work on first. The substance use medical detox protocol implementation project is moving forward well, and a rough draft of the protocol is under review by substance use doctors. The Work Group Co-Chairs are also working with CHRT on writing the mental health parts of the CMS Health Innovations proposal (see above).

Ellen Rabinowitz, Chair of the Community Outreach and Dental Services Work Group: this Work Group has not yet met under the new WHI structure, but hopes to meet in January. The BlueCaid pilot is moving along, and the Ypsilanti Family Practice has agreed to become a site for the pilot. In the last two months, the DHS workers at the Washtenaw Health Plan have saved several hundred adults from having their medical care expire. The workers will also spend one morning per week at the Packard Health Clinic.

Communications:

Press relations – a press release is being developed focused on the DHS/WHP project. Talking points will be provided to each Steering Committee member before anything is given to the press.

Presentations to the larger community - the initial fear of people pushing back against the WHI has not materialized, rather, people have wanted to get involved and add their ideas to the process. To date, the WHI has not been seeking groups to speak at; have been invited to many community groups, organizations, or other meetings. The Communications Work Group was assigned to establish a communications strategy for the WHI, including the creation of a speakers’ bureau to make presentations to various external constituencies. The Communications group will report back to the Steering Committee with their recommendations at the January 6th Steering Committee meeting.

Financial Model:

CHRT hosted a meeting with UMHS financial staff members to establish a financial model of the WHI. CHRT will set up a meeting with representatives for SJMHS (Chuck Hoffman) and IHA (Lowell Sprague). The starting idea is to find out all sources of health funding coming into the county.

Measures of Success:

Each Work Group will be asked to identify their own measures of success, with further Steering Committee discussion in February or March. The co-chairs will be advised that these measures must be able to be evaluated over time.

Reports on Other Meetings:

Washtenaw Housing Alliance – Steering Committee members reviewed the handout given to the WHA about homelessness in Washtenaw County and the ACA.

Washtenaw United Way – Coordinated Health Funding (convened by WHP) – this group started meeting in October and will conduct a community-wide needs assessment of health issues. A WHI presentation was given November 29th. They hope to make recommendations for changes over the next year. This group focuses on service provision, not system-level changes and is complementary but not overlapping with the WHI.

Next Steering Committee meeting:

Friday, January 6th, 3:00 pm –5:00 pm, CHRT Board Room.