

To: Transformation Workgroup Members.
From: Vijay Ganju, Project Director
Date: 10/11/2006
Subject: Transformation Workgroup Meetings – October 16 and November 3.

As you know, we have completed the first phase of requirements related to the transformation grant by submitting the needs assessment/resource inventory and the comprehensive plan. These are works in progress which will be modified and elaborated as our course of action is better defined.

The next deliverable that the TWG is charged to develop is for the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services. The Committee is charged this interim to “study and make recommendations for improving delivery of Texas mental health services; consider local and regional delivery systems including access to care, cost effectiveness, choice and competition, and quality of care”

To aid the work of the committee, the TWG has been charged to develop a report with specific recommendations for the future mental health system that would be both optimal and achievable. This report needs to address (but is not limited to),

- Building a mental health system that addresses early intervention, both in the course of illness and in the lifespan;
- Reducing disparities, across populations of different races/ethnicities and across geographic areas;
- Implementation of evidence-based practices in uniform, standardized ways across agencies;
- The use of new technologies, data coordination and the quality of care; and
- Ensuring that consumers and family members have mechanisms to their needs and priorities in policies, plans, and their own care.

This report is due to the committee no later than November 1.

While the work done for the comprehensive plan can certainly inform the development of this report, recommendations for the future will need more specificity to be useful. Also, as TWG members have identified policy and administrative barriers to proposed initiatives, this report provides an opportunity to propose legislative actions that could support and facilitate transformation efforts.

At this stage, this will be the focus of the meeting scheduled for October 16, 1.30 – 4.30 p.m. in the DSHS Board Room (Room M-739) at the Robert D. Moreton Building, 1100 W. 49th Street. If you have any issues that you would like to recommend in the five areas identified in the charge (or others), please provide these to us by October 12. We will collate this input for discussion at the meeting on October 16.

For the November 3 meeting, at the direction of the TWG, we have invited Fran Silvestri, Executive Director of the International Institute for leadership in Mental Health to present activities in other countries related to TWG priorities such as integration of primary care and mental health, early intervention, and anti-stigma initiatives. The meeting on November 3 is scheduled between 2.00 - 5.00 p.m. in the DSHS Board Room.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Yours Sincerely,

Vijay Ganju.