

Texas Mental Health Transformation Workgroup Meeting (TWG) – October 19, 2007

Attendees

A meeting of the Texas Mental Health Transformation Workgroup (TWG) was held in the Public Hearing Room, at 909, W. 45th Street, Building 2, on Friday, October 19, 2007 from 1:30 pm – 5:00 pm.

Transformation Workgroup (TWG) Members present:

Dr. David Lakey, Chair (Commissioner, Department of State Health Services)

Sam Shore, MHT Operations Director (Department of State Health Services)

Office of the Governor: Heidi McConnell and Jessica Olson

Consumer / Family Member Representatives: Maurice Dutton, Mike Halligan and Stephany Bryan

Department of Aging and Disability Services: Jon Weizenbaum

Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services: Terry Smith

Department of State Health Services: Joe Vesowate

Health and Human Services Commission: Tom Valentine

Texas Department of Criminal Justice: Dee Wilson

Texas Department of Family and Protective Services: Sue Milam

Texas Juvenile Probation Commission: Steve Spencer

Texas Youth Commission: Tracy Levins and Tina Coronado

Veterans Integrated Service Network: Dr. Kathryn Kotrla

Texas Workforce Commission: John Fuller

Texas State House of Representatives: James Cooley

Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs: Erin Ferris

Texas State Senate: Amy Herzog

Office of Rural Community Affairs: Theresa Cruz

Texas Veterans Commission: Steve Wilkins

Agencies not in attendance:

Texas Education Agency

Implementation Team Members present:

Vijay Ganju, MHT Project Director

Steve Eichner, IT Project Manager

Valarie Garza, Consumer Coordinator

Havovi Katki, Project Associate

Mimi McKay, Information Center Director

Richard Spence, Director, UT Center for Social Work Research

Stacey Stevens, UT Center for Social Work Research

Ellen Trevino, Program Specialist

Pat Wong, Evaluation Lead, UT-LBJ School of Public Affairs

Gary Chapman, Senior Lecturer, UT-LBJ School of Public Affairs

Camille Miller, President/CEO, Texas Health Institute

Delia Presley, Vice President, Marketing and Communication, Texas Health Institute

Mike Maples, Section Director MH/SA, DSHS

Bill Race, Medical Director Behavioral Health, DSHS

Dolly Klinefelter, Executive Assistant, DSHS

Amanda Broden, Communication Specialist, DSHS

1. DR. DAVID LAKEY: CALL TO ORDER

Dr David Lakey, Commissioner of the Texas Department State Health Services, called the meeting to order. He introduced Jessica Olson, the new TWG representative from the Governor's office. Ms. Olson will be the official liaison between the Department of State Health Services and the Governor's office.

The minutes of the last TWG meeting held on August 3, 2007 were approved.

2. AGENCY UPDATES

Steve Spencer: Texas Juvenile Probation Commission (TJPC)

Mr. Spencer announced that an application for a model for change grant submitted by Erin Espinosa from TJPC had been accepted. Transformation workgroup efforts were a part of the application.

Dr. Kathryn Kotrla: VISN 17

Dr Kotrla complimented Dr. Maurice Dutton, TWG consumer and family representative for his ongoing efforts to work with the Veterans Affairs (VA) on veteran jail diversion programs, VA care and out of state initiatives.

Jon Weizenbaum: Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS)

DADS, working with Department State Health Services (DSHS), submitted an operational plan related to a demonstration grant ("Money, Follows the Person") last month. The program assists individuals in nursing facilities, some of whom also have behavioral health needs, move back into the community.

Mr. Weizenbaum also shared that the Aging Texas Well Advisory Committee, an aging focused advisory committee comprised of different organizations, agencies and academics met with Vijay Ganju, MHT Project Director. They discussed the activities and the interfaces between the transformation work and the committee's work on aging policy.

Terry Smith: Department of Assistive and Rehabilitation Services (DARS)

DARS is working to increase specialization of rehabilitation counselors. About 18% of the population DARS serves, has emotional mental health and wellness issues. Major field offices across the state have increased expertise and knowledge in this area to provide better care. Going forward, everybody serving in relocation and rehabilitation will have to have a foundation of knowledge in behavioral health services.

Update on Workforce Training Workgroup:

Terry Smith and John Fuller are the executive sponsors of the Workforce Training Workgroup. The group met October 4, 2007 and received reports from the various agencies involved in the training initiatives. The group voted to redirect the training initiatives and investigate training and workforce development issues in a more comprehensive way. Terry Smith urged consistent

representation at meetings from each of the agency representatives. The group will meet next November 12.

Sue Milam: Department of Family and Protective services (DFPS)

DFPS hired a new Medical Director, Dr. James Rogers, from San Antonio. Dr. Rogers, a child psychiatrist, previously worked with Job Guidance Center for a number of years. He will be a great addition primarily to the Child Protective Services (CPS) and Adult Protective Services (APS) programs

The Symposium on Child and Adolescent Behavioral Health Practices was held on October 11, 2007 and sponsored by the Child and Adolescent workgroup (Richard Poe from TEA and Sue Milam, executive sponsors). Members from different agencies dedicated time and effort to make this symposium a huge success. Sue Milam thanked all the participants as well as the TWG members for their participation.

Erin Ferris: Texas Department Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA)

TDHCA announced \$1 million has been made available from the housing trust fund for either home buyers assistance or rental assistance to veterans with disabilities. Two workshops will be held this week to help people with the application process for this funding. The program will focus on the veterans population, since they often have a high occurrence of mental health disabilities. Ms. Ferris thanked the TWG members representing the VA system for publicizing the event.

Sam Shore: DSHS, gave an update on the mental health transformation

The updated comprehensive plan was submitted to SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration) at the end of September. It includes all work plans which agency representatives developed. The plan is an accurate reflection of how Texas is moving forward with transformation. Mr. Shore thanked everyone who participated in the meetings, generated the information, edited and commented on the document before sending it to the federal government.

Mr. Shore announced that the SAMHSA Transformation grantee meeting will be held in November in Washington D.C. He indicated that it would be an opportunity to hear about the challenges and achievements of other states.

Heidi McConnell: Governor's Office

Heidi McConnell introduced Jessica Olson as the new TWG representative from the Governor's Office. She indicated this meeting would be her last as she will now be working exclusively on the Cancer Research Initiative. She commented that it had been a matter of personal privilege for her to work on this project and expressed pleasure with the progress the project has made in the lives of all Texans. She appreciated the opportunity to participate in this project with the TWG and regretted the departure. She expressed full confidence in Jessica Olson's abilities.

Mr. Shore thanked Ms. McConnell for all her efforts in this project. He indicated she provided incredible support to Mr. Shore while he took over the project and has been very helpful to Ms. Olson in her transition.

Joe Vesowate: Department of State Health Services

The Crisis Redesign Initiative in communities across the state is a local process that includes input from consumers, family members and citizens. A number of communities have shown a keen interest in including consumers and family members who had questioned what the enhanced service delivery system will look like in their community. The communities also expressed the need for integration of mental health and primary care services for individuals in crisis. DSHS is waiting for each community to submit its local plan this month before moving forward with the process.

A second project the department is tackling is clinical management of behavioral health systems using information technology. This integrated system of behavioral health services, substance abuse and mental health, will have two components. The first component will seek to move data across systems seamlessly creating a repository of information. The data warehouse will be accessible by clinicians or health care givers operating at difference agencies and locations. Creating an accessible data warehouse will allow providers to know a patient's history before recommending treatment. This effort fulfills one of the state's mental health transformation goals.

The other portion of the project will develop tools to enhance the clinical experience so consumers have an opportunity help direct their treatment. This program will be tested in the field with a small group of people in the near future.

Texas hosted a national forensic conference in San Antonio last month. The Conference of the National Association of State Mental Health Directors' brought together national forensic experts to discuss best practices.

The state is also developing an outpatient competency restoration project so that individuals, who are charged with a crime as a result of their mental illness, or are not able to participate in their own defense due to mental illness, receive appropriate mental health services. Previously, these services were typically provided in state hospitals. The DSHS pilot project will divert individuals from institutions and jails and provide outpatient treatment. This program will permit families to be closer to these individuals while they receive necessary services. Texas is among one of the first states to adapt this program on a large scale.

Finally DSHS has launched a project called the "Demonstration to Maintain Independence and Employment". This project, undertaken in the Houston area, is designed to provide working individuals who do not have health care benefits – with health coverage. This would also help individuals who lack proper behavioral health services or other health care services get the care they need. The Texas project is one of several projects being launched across the nation. The program's \$22 million in funding is primarily derived from the federal government, as well as county hospital funding. No state agency funding is involved.

John Fuller: The Texas Workforce Commission

TWC has received a grant from the Department of Labor to manage a disability navigator initiative. The project is in the second year. The navigators' role is to work within the workforce development areas of which they reside. There are twenty eight workforce development areas and there are navigators in fourteen of the twenty eight areas. The Navigators primarily work with the staff of the workforce centers to provide training on how to better serve people with disabilities who come through those centers looking for employment.

The Texas Workforce Commission is hosting a state wide conference November 14–16 at the Houston Galleria. The topics consist of workforce, education and economic development.

Theresa Cruz: Office of Rural Community Affairs (ORCA)

ORCA received one of sixteen grants nationwide for health information technology networking. The grant will be used to connect two critical access hospitals located in the Texas Panhandle area with a tertiary hospital in located in Amarillo. Facilities will all be connected through electronic medical records and telemedicine services provided by the Texas Tech in Lubbock. Telemedicine has been touted as one of the best solutions in rural areas and it would be great to promote this technology with hospitals around the state.

ORCA has an annual recruitment program, the Rural Community Health Investment Program in which 10% to 20% of the grants are given to mental health professionals in rural areas. The grant funds are used to either retain or recruit healthcare professionals in rural areas. Retaining the professionals provides consistency to some of the patients in those areas.

Mike Halligan: Texas Mental Health Consumers

Mike Halligan shared that he recently returned from the Alternatives Conference (a national consumer conference) in Washington D.C. He recommended TWG agency representatives attend such conferences in the future in order to get some ideas on consumer voice.

The Texas Mental Health Consumers received a SAMHSA Consumer Networking Grant, a small grant for the next three years. This funding will be used for polycom systems for teleconferencing and video teleconferencing. TMHC will have the capability to speak with fifteen different sites at the same time. This process will enable TMHC to educate all the sites across the state and various consumer organizations.

Mike Halligan attended the individual development camp conference in San Antonio where he met Kitty Clawson from Colorado. Ms. Clawson works with the Mile High United Way's, Bridging the Gap Program which helps children reintegrate into society. The program has a very good working relationship with the private sector business owners who help children in the community by bringing them back into the society and live lives with regular jobs.

James Cooley: Texas State House of Representative

Mr Cooley stated that he will probably be moving to another agency. He said that he has enjoyed being a part of this group. A request for interim charges on trauma was turned in and awaiting a response. Although there is no specific charge for mental health, this charge is related to trauma

care and would involve mental health as well. He also mentioned that Chairman Delisi will be retiring at the end of the session.

Dee Wilson: Texas Department of Criminal Justice

TDCJ has been meeting with the Department of Public Safety and DSHS to create a system where CARE databases are merged with the Department of Public Safety databases. Communication will occur in real time and these databases can be accessed at the time a person is taken to jail. DPS will actually have it on their T-let system so anybody that has access will be able to identify someone in the CARE system at any point.

The Chief Justice Criminal task force administration received \$3 million to create an automated registry system. The intent is to set up a system where a person could 'Google' somebody in criminal justice to find out what services they're accessing. This program would help the court make sentencing decisions and hopefully prevent a person from winding up in prison.

Texas Corrections Association, a professional organization for juvenile and adult criminal justice professionals will be hosting a substance abuse and mental health mid-way conference in Austin TX from November 29-20.

Tracy Levins: the Texas Youth Commission

TYC has a skills based model and approach for the general treatment program, incorporating wrap-around services and systems of care design within other parts of the treatment program.

Along with TCOOMMI (Texas Correctional Office on Offenders with Medical or Mental Impairments) and local mental health authorities they have succeeded in this project with sending kids back into the community.

TYC has received authorization to have seven family liaisons. These are the central office family coordinators who are going to be liaisons that can be a voice for families within our institutions.

TYC facilities are being accredited by the American Correctional Association. The Ron Jackson Facility in Brownsville is in good condition.

Senate Bill 103 authorizes TYC to expand staff training from 80 to 84 hours which includes training in mental health needs of adolescents and adolescent development.

TJPC, TYC, TDSHS, Prairie View A & M University will be hosting an annual conference on strengthening youth and families from Nov 7-9 in Austin TX. The focus is on special need of kids in the juvenile justice system.

3. PROJECT UPDATES:

Camille Miller: A Meeting of the Minds- Texas Mental Health Transformation Symposium Summary

Camille Miller, President and CEO of the Texas Health Institute provided the TWG with an overview of *A Meeting of the Minds: A Texas Mental Health Transformation Symposium* held August 15-19, 2007 in Austin, Texas. A highly successful event, she provided data on the number of community collaborative representatives, consumers, and invited guests in attendance as well as, the racial and geographic diversity of attendees. The event was divided into two parts 1) a community collaborative portion, highlighting the activities of the seven (7) transformation community collaboratives (August 15-16, 2007) and 2) a consumer and family member portion (August 17-19).

Ms. Miller focused her remarks primarily on the community collaborative portion of the symposium. She shared the top two "needs areas" identified by the communities, which included: 1) training for consumer voice in all community collaboratives and 2) technical assistance for information and technology planning. In addition, she identified other areas of interest such as school-based mental health, consumer evaluation tools, consumer-driven engagement, monthly consumer focused topics and/or workshops, and holistic and integrated care.

Camille Miller: National Expert Panel Recommendations Overview

Ms. Miller also informed the group that the Going Forward, Next Steps Panel, chaired by Dr. Ron Manderscheid provided the collaborative members with excellent feedback regarding their plans for transformation. The panel, comprised of national mental health transformation and consumer advocacy leaders, listened to all community presentations and offered guidance for next steps. Ms. Miller provided members with a handout which summarized their advice. Proposals include such ideas as 1) making sure collaboratives capture their community mental health stories to help those outside of the mental health field understand the need for transformation and 2) urging communities to include easily achievable goals in their transformation plan so to provide themselves with early victories.

Camille Miller: Other Information and Announcements

Camille Miller asked James Cooley to thank Representative Delisi for her efforts on healthcare issues especially in respect to immunization and public health infrastructure.

Ms. Miller also thanked all those who attended the symposium. She particularly thanked Sam Shore, David Lakey, Pat Wong, Gary Chapman, Sue Milam, Robert Alexander, Heidi McConnell and Jessica Olson. She shared that the event was a huge success and expressed excitement about the outcomes. She also complimented the folks that had worked on the Childrens' Symposium. It too was a huge success.

Ms Miller announced the upcoming Transformation activities such as webinars and policy education forum. She also informed the TWG that Vince Fonseca, the state epidemiologist, did an incredible job on his presentation for the November 12, 2007 event. The webinars have a capacity for up to 150 people. The first webinar had 56 participants. There will be two other webinars, one November 7, and another on November 14, focusing on “Assessing Consumer Involvement”. There will be a health policy forum on November 16 on “Transforming Mental Health in the Schools”.

Debbie Berndt: MH Training Institute

The Hogg Foundation has been engaged in discussion for some months with the transformation workgroup about establishing codes and establishing training. In a former TWG meeting, Dr. King Davis presented to this group focusing on distance learning. The Institute is something that can be built on the work of Terry Smith’s workforce committee.

With all the training that is going on in various agencies, it has been decided to continue working with the agencies through the workforce workgroup. The foundation is also looking into problems with recruitment, the problems with the way the students are trained and higher education and the lack of diversity in the workforce.

The foundation is now working on a MOU that’s in draft form. The Foundation would like to meet with Terry Smith and the workforce committee and will be setting up a meeting.

Ms. Berndt introduced Vicki Coffee-Fletcher, who will be working on coordinating workforce issues.

Sherri Hammack: HHSC

Sherri Hammack was the moderator for the Children and Adolescent Behavioral Health Symposium.

Highlights of the Children & Adolescent Behavioral Health Symposium:

- Sponsored and planned by the TWG Children & Adolescent Workgroup
- Model programs being implemented in state for:
 - 0-3 population
 - School age population
 - High-risk youth & transition age
- Attended by:
 - TWG agency representatives
 - Community Collaborative representatives
 - Consumer and family members
 - National agency representatives
- Number of persons attended: 132
- Welcome and opening remarks by Jessica Olson, J.D., Governor’s Advisor, Office of Budget, Planning & Policy, and Stephany Bryan, Family Representative

Model Programs Discussed

- Court Team for Maltreated infants and Toddlers (Fort Bend County)
- Family Group Decision-Making / Circles of Support (Bexar County)
- Provider-University Collaborative
(Austin Child Guidance Center/ UT School of Social Work)
- Nurse Family Partnerships (Dallas County)
- Safe Schools / Health Initiative (Williamson County)
- Community Solutions (Fort Worth County)
- Multi-Systemic Therapy (Tarrant County)
- Positive Behavior Support (San Marcos)

A presentation was made by Dr. Jeanne Rivard, NASMHPD Research Institute

- Resource Guide for promoting a Children's Evidence-Based Culture
- Implementation Resource Kit for Children and Adolescents with Disruptive Behaviors
- Matrix of Evidence-Based Practices for Children and Adolescents

Next Steps: Where do we go from here?

- Develop mechanisms for strong consumer and family member "voice" and more integral participation by consumers and family members
- Develop financing strategies and legislative support for children and adolescent mental health initiatives
- Include stakeholders in the TWG Children and Adolescent workgroups
- Develop consensus on transformation and related policies
- Initiative activities to develop Spanish-speaking professionals
- Promote face-to-face cross-training
- Work with other transformation states on Children and Adolescent issues
- Develop an initiative with a focus on youth transitioning to adulthood
- Develop specific programs and policies for children and adolescents with less severe problems
- Facilitate communication among TWG initiatives and stakeholders
- Evaluate factors related to sustainability of model programs

Sam Shore thanked Sue Milam, Sherri Hammack and the entire Children and Adolescent workgroup for their efforts to achieve a real milestone in the Children's mental health arena.

Casey Foundation Family Programs has been very supportive in sponsoring the lunch for the symposium. It is a great opportunity to collaborate with that group since they share many of the same goals of the child and adolescent workgroup.

4. VALARIE GARZA: CONSUMER VOICE UPDATE

Feedback from the August Symposium :

The feedback from the evaluation of the August Symposium was overwhelmingly positive. People wanted more events like the August Symposium and more networking opportunities. Housing was an issue consistently mentioned as important to consumers. One thing to consider is conducting events that are regional in nature so that people can network and learn about their specific regional needs and strengths. Kathryn Power, the Director of the Center for Mental Health Services provided energy and inspiration for the attendees to do this important work.

The participants suggested having more time with professional partners, the use of electronic communication tools and more opportunities to give input into the system.

Accomplishments:

- Attended the Alternatives Conference in St. Louis, MO – National Mental Health Consumer / Family Member conference. 15 consumers and family members from Texas attended the conference, including three Consumers and Family Member representatives from the TWG. The Mayor of St. Louis and the Governor of Missouri were present. A significant number of SAMHSA employees attended. A new process was delivered to have consumers & family members provide feedback from the conference and how the information can be used in Texas. Valarie Garza coordinated the consumer voice portion of the Meeting of the Minds Symposium.
- Ms. Garza developed a draft statement of consumer voice workgroups around vision, definitions and mission.
- Ms. Garza created the consumer voice network
- Initiated planning for a consumer driven systems policy forum
- Educated community collaboratives and provided training in consumer voice
- As a result of the opportunities created three TWG agencies have created positions and will be hiring consumers into staff positions within the organizations.

Evolution of Consumer Voice in Texas:

In December 2006, applications were received for participation in the community collaborative program. None of the applications included mention of consumer participation and involvement. In response, the Consumer Voice Team has built more structures and processes for consumer voice, including requirements in collaborative contracts, training in communities and training via webinars, site visits and symposium.

Alternatives Conference 2007:

Maurice Dutton, Ph.D., visited the Alternatives 2007 conference and returned as a different person. He has a new appreciation for consumers. As a family member he realizes the differences between family members and consumers' perspectives and needs. Who best knows what is best for consumers? Not the professional. Not the observer. Only the consumer knows. He has internalized much more of the consumer voice and consumer perspective. He mentioned that until you internalize it, you can't operationalize it. He emphasized that the most effective therapies are being spearheaded by consumers, and not professionals.

Stephany Bryan talked about her involvement in the TWG and expressed a desire for TWG members to take Consumer Voice members seriously, accept them as partners, and hear their perspective and recommendations.

Stephany Bryan then recommended taking a fresh approach with conferences; to send a family member to a research conference and send state agency representatives to a consumer & family member conference. She recommended the upcoming Federation of Families' national conference in Washington, D.C. from December 7-9, 2007. The website is www.ffcmh.org as in Federation for Families and Children's Mental Health.

Valarie Garza suggested that TWG members attend the consumer voice training sessions to learn more about consumer voice and its perspective. This training will be held on October 26, 2007 at the Texas Health Institute.

5. GARY CHAPMAN: MHT COMMUNICATION TOOLS

The communication group has been working on the following items:

- To increase the availability of news from the state to consumers and the communities in this project and to launch a participatory forum for fostering dialogue about mental health transformation.
- A plan for the learning community of interested parties, particularly with participants in the community collaboratives, so they can learn from one another.
- A shared calendar of events.
- The use of an open source or transparent source software platform will be used to enhance the existing web address which is www.mhtransformation.org currently run by DSHS, which could be outsourced to a private posting service. The platform will be consistent with the same regulations particularly with respect to accessibility. Along with open data standards there will be access to a variety of different kinds of occupations instead of being locked down in proprietary format.

- A creation of news channels to exchange ideas and news that are coming from the different sources - from the state agencies, the partners and the participants of the TWG and from consumers.
- Creating an experimental participatory forum like a bulletin board kind of forum that's broken into topic areas that is accessible to people who want to help advance the transformation agenda in the state.
- An important policy issue needs to be taken into account with respect to how much filtering is being done to the participatory dialogue; who is going to manage it and what will be the level of moderation. There are ways to make the forums transparent, open or hidden. Transparent means that people can read them but they cannot post information unless they are authorized to. Open means that anybody can post information to the forum. Whereas hidden means you do not even know that it exists unless you are an authorized user of some particular sub group. The technology supports all three of those but policy decisions have to be made on how to handle that information and who will post events to the calendar. There needs to be a moderator to make sure that events are checked out with respect to the legitimacy of the event.

This will create a way of expressing the collaboration that the transformation working group represents rather than making people go to all the different agencies' websites and figuring out what is there that relates to mental health care information.

Gary Chapman: IT Component:

There were fifteen graduate students last academic year who focused on the IT evaluation and collected baseline data. State agencies tended to be data side loaded and tended to be contained within the agencies. The state agencies are doing a pretty good job of sharing data across programs inside the agencies but not outside the agencies.

There is a wide degree of variability and understanding of IT personnel between state agencies about the mental health transformation project. There are some people who are very knowledgeable and supportive and other people who had never heard of the project.

Finally it was discovered that nobody really knows how many data sources there are that are relevant in mental health care transformation.

This is still a task that needs to be sorted out about exactly how many data sources are relevant to MHT. There will also be a focus on the community collaboratives, working with Texas Health Institute and the MHT staff to essentially do the same thing that we've done for state agencies with the community collaboratives.

A baseline of information will be established particularly with respect to IT resources and data flows within the community collaboratives and trying to match those up with the data of the state agencies. This will be completed by the spring of next year. There are fourteen graduate students working on this project this year who have been divided into teams that will visit each of the

community collaboratives to conduct interviews and look at documents and help even with people in the community collaboratives understand what kinds of IT resources they have.

6. PAT WONG: EVALUATION PLAN

Pat Wong, Director of the Evaluation Team at the LBJ School of Public Affairs works with Gary Chapman and Jane Lincove, faculty member of the Evaluation Team. Pat Wong acknowledged the students who are part of the evaluation team and thanked the TWG group for giving them this tremendous educational opportunity to work on this project.

Overview of the Evaluation Plan:

They are four components.

The first component consists of environmental scans. The environmental scan consists of establishing the baseline on what is out there in the mental health system. This is divided into two parts, the information technology component and the human and business component. On each component the various agency staff was interviewed. In addition, maps were created of how the system and reports were prepared and submitted to Vijay Ganju and Sam Shore.

The second component of the evaluation process is to document all the activities that have been taking place such as the descriptive component and the process component. This is an on-going process of a five year plan.

The third component of this five-year evaluation project is the special focus projects. There are a lot of activities going on in MHT within which the focus will be on the IT component and the consumer voice.

The fourth component in this evaluation process is the summative evaluation.

Pat Wong: Consumer Voice Piece

The students of Pat Wong at the LBJ School will be working on the consumer voice piece, the emphasis being the consumer groups and their networks.

It is easy to identify consumer groups that are in the mainstream that are affiliated with national organizations and so forth. It is trickier to try to identify consumer groups that are not in the mental health system proper. For example, there might be parents that have groups within the school system that have special needs children and they are also family members of mental health consumers but we may or may not know that a particular group exists through the mainstream mental health system. Part of the work is to identify all these groups and broaden the consumer groups.

When these groups are identified the students will find out from the leadership of these groups a variety of things, everything from their existing operations and organizational structures to how

they interact with other consumer organizations, how they interact with providers, how they interact with individual consumers and what are the roles of the consumers themselves in writing these rules.

This process will give a better idea on what a future transformed consumer driven system would be like. This will give a better perspective on what's out there and to give you a sense of what the consumers wants in terms of policy design and consumer driven services.

Another element of the study is who is not connected in the community. There is a huge task ahead in finding out who are the other consumers that need to be included into the system. The plan is to prepare a preliminary exploratory kind of interview over the next two months to talk with a very small number of consumer leaders to solicit input on exactly what kind of questions should be asked in the larger survey. Then the larger survey will be carried out in the spring semester.

Another dimension of special focus projects is a preventive and early intervention service. One idea is to see if there might be community collaboratives that have a school component to it and would like to identify children with mental health needs in school systems or adults with mental health needs in the community and look at the relationship between parental, mental health status on children's academic outcome and behavioral outcome, or look at children's mental health service, how much service or what kind of services they have received in the community and the relationship of those to what kind of things they receive within the school system and the academic performance in the school system.

The idea is to offer some empirical information to inform everybody about how to think about that process and to inform the community collaborative as well. There is no existing concrete empirical information in this project. Another dimension of the prevention early intervention issues is that the Texas Health and Human Services Commission is working on the 'Raising Texas Project' and the student group will be exploring the various possibilities of looking at data on early childhood intervention.

The work plans organized as per all the workgroups will be evaluated as part of the proposed activities and measurable goals.

Mr. Shore thanked Mr. Wong for his presentation.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

Robin Plan, a consumer urged the work group to take into account consumer survivors' perspective, address stigma within the mental health system, recognize that only the consumer can speak for the consumer, regardless of individuals and organizations that speak in the consumers' name.

She said that consumer directed services must include psychological services for those who reject the medical model of mental illness.

8. CLOSING POINTS

Network of Care

Sam Shore has been approached by the network group who operate the system called the Network of Care. It is an IT solution that is really consumer focused, where people at the county level can get information about what's going on there but also just good information in several areas. The key area that they are interested in discussing is mental health. Their work includes child protective services and long term care. It is a well-developed and sophisticated system. It is designed to let people get resource information and there is a component where you can enter your own personal information to share with your provider or with others. There are several components and work is being done in other transformation sites. Mr. Shore wanted to know if the TWG would be interested in this initiative.

Mr. Shore said that he would work with the executive sponsor of the Data/IT group, Tom Valentine to find out more information and to see if we can work with Trilogy, the business that developed the product.

MOU with the Hogg Foundation

Mr. Shore asked Terry Smith, to take the draft MOU with the Hogg Foundation on the Training Institute to the workforce workgroup for review and comment.

Consumer Voice Definitions Document

Mr. Shore asked for the formation of a sub-committee to review the consumer voice document 'Visions, Definitions, Guiding Principles and Characteristics' along with the consumer voice members and to give recommendations. A group was formed with Tom Valentine, Terry Smith, Dee Wilson, Vonzo Tolbert, Jessica Olson and a representative from Joe Vesowate's office.

The TWG group decided to meet quarterly and to keep the length of the meeting time to three hours. It was decided to have more of the executive sponsors meetings and to keep a track of the project timeline. Mr. Ganju suggested to have more focused discussions at the TWG meetings rather than various presentations so that key discussion items can be discussed with respect to policy issues.

Mr. Shore thanked TWG members and adjourned the meeting.