

**Texas Mental Health Transformation Workgroup Meeting  
Minutes  
February 13, 2009**

**A meeting of the Texas Mental Health Transformation Workgroup(TWG) was held in the Robert D. Moreton Building, Board Room (M-739),1100 W.49<sup>th</sup> Street, Austin, Texas 78756 on February 3, 2009, 1:30 p.m – 5:00 p.m.**

**1. Welcome and Call to Order**

Dr. David Lakey, Commissioner of the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) and Chair of the Texas Mental Health Transformation Workgroup (TWG) called the meeting to order at 1:37 p.m.

**2. Review and Approval of Minutes**

Dr. Lakey called for the approval of the minutes from the February 8, 2008 meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

**3. Director's Report**

Sam Shore, Director of the Mental Health Transformation Project, presented the Director's Report as follows:

**New staff**

Jessica Hartos was introduced as the Research Coordinator for the Mental Health Transformation Project.

Wendy Latham was introduced as lead for workforce initiatives.

Dr. Maurice Dutton, Consumer Representative, recognized Ms. Latham for her work in Sam Shore's absence.

**Consumer, Family, and Youth Training and Technical Assistance Center (TTAC)**

DSHS has awarded a contract for the management and operation of the TTAC. The award was made to Mental Health America of Texas. NAMI Texas holds a subcontract to continue to develop a network of consumers, families, and youth. The TTAC is charged with providing appropriate training and provide information to service delivery systems about what consumers need. The TTAC will be working closely with MHT Community Collaboratives. The consumer coordinator role has shifted from Texas Health Institute (THI) to the TTAC.

**Returning Veteran's and their Families Report**

A report entitled *Behavioral Health Services for Returning Veterans and Their Families: Services, Gaps, and Recommendations* was posted to the Mental Health Transformation website, [www.mhtransformation.org](http://www.mhtransformation.org), shortly after January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009. There were excellent contributions from the Texas Military Forces and Texas-based veterans' organizations. The document may serve as a useful

resource for planning purposes. Several of the report's recommendations may require follow-up activities.

### **Grant Continuance**

Staff is preparing the grant continuation application for Federal Fiscal Year 2010 and will submit it prior to the deadline established by SAMHSA.

### **TWG membership nominations**

There are consumer slots on the TWG that are vacant. A call for appointments is open. Submissions will be subject to review and selection by the Governor's office. Stephany Bryan, MHT Consumer Representative reminded the Working Group that the Consumers Workgroup has previously submitted three names for consideration and is concerned that they be considered for the position. Ms. Bryan wishes for progress to be made in a timely fashion. There was consensus that any decision about selecting additional TWG members should be done efficiently.

#### **4. Public Comment**

Dr. Lakey sought and received unanimous consent to advance public comments to this point in the agenda.

Martin Ornelas, representing the Coastal Bend Collaborative (Jim Wells and Brooks County) raised a concern about the framework of MHT funding to the Community Collaboratives. There has been an ongoing issue regarding significant delays in submitting bills and receiving payment. The result of the delays has had an impact on program operations and may impact perceptions about the commitment to Transformation and has impacted the trust relationship. There has also been a delay in contract development for the FY09 fiscal year.

Dr. Dutton (TWG member) recognized that contracting is an issue and that the matter has previously been brought to the attention of Dr. Lakey and Mike Maples, the DSHS Assistant Commissioner for Mental Health and Substance Abuse. Efforts have been underway to improve business processes.

Stephany Bryan (TWG member) indicated that Coastal Bend had used MHT funding to sustain staff support and questioned what would happen when MHT funding ended. Mr. Ornelas confirmed that there were no plans in place to sustain the position at the conclusion of the grant period.

Gyl Wadge, Mental Health America of Texas (MHA), asked to have a representative from MHA placed on the TWG.

Representatives from HHSC presented information regarding a request from the legislature for recommendations for a 2.5% cut in FY10-FY11 funding, should it become necessary. There was some indication that part of the 2.5% cut might be from adult MH services.

The legislature is considering funding to support the delivery of mental health services for veterans.

**5. Consumer Voice Update**

Dr. Dutton presented the Consumer Voice Update. Dr. Dutton introduced a new report from NAMI Texas speaking to recovery, including an article prepared by Dr. Dutton. Dr. Dutton expressed concern that funding for the statewide consumer network/TTAC activities was reduced by \$1 million and the selection process was delayed for 5 months.

Valarie Garza will continue to work on consumer issues. She is now working for NAMI. Texas Health Institute is no longer contracted to provide statewide consumer services.

**6. Director's Report**

Mr. Shore presented a project plan update as a framework for where Mental Health Transformation is going. It is important to remember the purpose behind the Transformation grant: changing the mental health infrastructure to reach the NFC Goals. The focus of activities has been, and will continue to be, to create infrastructure and/or use infrastructure in novel ways.

MHT has a considerable accomplishment list, engaging in many projects that have addressed many topics, including those identified by the New Freedom Commission. Topics addressed by MHT projects include: consumer action, training, technology, evidence-based practices, and services integration. A list of MHT projects is being disseminated.

MHT has engaged many groups to implement these projects. Partners involved in implementing MHT projects include the TWG, the TWG Steering Committee, TWG Working Groups, Community Collaboratives, and other partners.

Most projects are working towards infrastructure innovations in areas including: consumer action, training, technology, evidence-based practices, and services integration.

MHT is also focused on the future, with a concentration on moving current projects forward to completion and ensuring that all efforts have an evidence base to provide a foundation for implementation. The goal is to have infrastructure changes lead to improved services. MHT projects are being framed to provide demonstrable results. Projects are being classified as being in one of several phases: development, pilot implementation, and full-scale implementation. An example of this evolution of implementation is telemedicine. As part of the development phase, the rules for telemedicine services were changed. A pilot implementation allowed for these rules to be tested. The Commission modified the rules based on evaluation, and new rules were set for full-scale

implementation.

MHT staff is framing projects in an 18-month window. Projects' continuation and impact through and beyond 2010 needs to be considered and appropriate plans developed. Needs that must be addressed include resource requirements, documentation of effort and results, and the dissemination of findings.

To aid in the documentation and dissemination of knowledge, MHT staff is engaged and will be more engaged in evaluating the success of the projects in which it is engaged. The evaluation includes a focus on the change process. One of the goals of the evaluation is to determine whether the changes MHT is contributing to make a difference. A model has been developed by MHT staff to measure projects' progress and impact. The model shows both direct and indirect effects. Model shows both direct and indirect effects, is based on a "no fault" approach to project implementation, and looks across projects to advance the impact on the NFC Transformation goals.

MHT is cognizant of sustainability. There should be discussion in how to take projects forward past the end of the grant in terms of LAR requests, special line items or other funding. There may need to be a focus on leveraging existing relationships and interagency connections.

There are a number of projects that MHT has contributed to that will continue beyond the end of the MHT grant end date. Plans need to be developed for the future of these efforts, including addressing what entity will absorb projects and how will resources will be provided to sustain project efforts.

The federal government has a tool, called "Transformation Tracker," which is being used at the federal level to disseminate knowledge about activities MHT has funded across the several states receiving MHT funding.

*The request was made for TWG members to update the list.*

The list distributed to the TWG will be entered into Transformation Tracker. The inclusion of a project in the list does not necessarily mean that it received funding: it could be a catalyst for change. The Transformation Tracker will be made available for public view.

## **7. Community Roundtables**

Nancy Speck, Ph.D.

Dr. Speck presented an overview of Community Collaborative-based roundtables as an effort for continuing the work of the TWG at the local level by strengthening relationships between local and state entities in regional offices. The implementation plans for these roundtable meetings are being coordinated by THI.

**8. Agenda for June Meeting**

Suggestions for the June TWG meeting were introduced. A focus of the meeting would be assessing and discussing current progress under MHT with the Commissioners of the TWG agency partners. Another element would be a briefing on the results from the 81<sup>st</sup> Legislature.

**9. Public Comments**

No additional public comments were made.

**10. Adjourn**