

# NORTHERN LAKES COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH

## CONSUMER ADVOCACY COUNCIL MINUTES

DATE: January 12, 2011  
TIME: 1:30 p.m.  
PLACE: Northern Lakes Community Mental Health  
(105 Hall Street, Traverse City)

PRESENT: GP, DL, JN, MB, DT, KS, FT with aide, CR and PJ.  
OTHERS PRESENT: RR.

The meeting was called to order at 1:37 p.m.

### I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

KS welcomed those in attendance. Introductions were completed. CR reviewed the vision and mission statements for the CAC.

### II. PUBLIC COMMENT/ADVOCACY STORIES

- FT shared a communication regarding independent living for people with disabilities. Michigan received \$56,714 and it went to the Traverse City Housing Commission. Greg identified the TC Housing Commission will make these available through NLCMH the MI Choice Waiver Program. The MI Choice Waiver Program provides in home support for persons who would otherwise be at risk for nursing home placement or to assist persons leaving nursing home placement. FT asked for information about how much goes to the people and how much to overhead. Will be added to the agenda for follow-up next month.
- JN identified that she has been assisting a neighbor who is handicapped and noted that there are a lot of people who need assistance.

### III. ACCEPT MEETING MINUTES OF DECEMBER 8, 2010

Identified initials should be CR instead of CP. KS identified that the minutes be corrected to identify 2012 instead of 2011. Her term would end in 2012 and that JN and she would alternate as chairperson and should she want to go sooner she would make it known. FT made the motion, supported by CR to make the change as amended and approve the minutes. Identified the larger font was easy to read. It was noted that the grid would be changed.

### IV. APPOINTMENT OF NEW MEMBER

KS identified the process for new member appointment. PJ related his experience with members of Kandu Island and NAMI. He identified his interest is in early assessment of candidates for services. It is important to communicate services that are available at CMH and what that person is encountering. Provide clarity and hope to the process in the beginning. He is also interested in dealing with the law enforcement aspect for individuals who have broken the law and whether any help is needed. He would like more information on the treatment approach of court mandated outpatient treatment and personal rights. Referenced the minutes from last month relative to jail services. PJ left the room in order for council members to discuss and to make a recommendation. There was a unanimous decision to appoint to the council. PJ returned to the meeting and congratulations were offered. He thanked everyone for the opportunity.

### V. MEMBER DISCUSSION

KS identified that Michigan P & A may attend the meeting possibly in March or April. Will get a firm commitment from P & A for April.

KS identified that members had expressed interest in scheduling time for member discussion. In the meantime shootings occurred locally and in Arizona and she wanted to have further discussion about gun and mental health issues that was in the news. Other issues she would like to discuss are concerns about services and housing.

Members shared concerns and discussed the following:

- HiPAA (Health Insurance Portability Accountability Act) – enforcement
- Fail Safe of protection of the community
- Availability of guns

- Evaluation of services
- Stable housing
- Change decision making
- Dealing with stress
- Process to force people to seek services (mandated treatment)
- Why are people falling through the cracks when they begin to escalate and need services
- What are CMH's doing about spending money for services to prohibit poor and better choices
- Press Releases related to Arizona shooting
- Lack of early intervention, prevention and detection
- Education on mental health
- Where is the dialogue around what occurred with the TC and Arizona shootings

Greg identified that Northern Lakes perspective is to help people have lives of meaning and being productive participants in their community and create opportunities for health and safety. Community mental health programs are county based and have contracts with the state. The Michigan Mental Health Code includes criteria to protect people that are dangerous to themselves or others. Greg suggested having a presentation on the Michigan Mental Health Code requirements and the law regarding voluntary and involuntary treatment. Referenced Kevin's Law. Greg mentioned the articles that are being written by the Leelanau News on mental health.

## **VI. CAC ASSESSMENT**

Not discussed.

## **VII. OLD BUSINESS**

Update on Budget – Greg identified that he attended a meeting with the new Department of Community Health Director, Olga Dazzo and provided background history. He reported that the PIHP Directors met with her last week and spent a lot of time speaking about healthcare reform and talking about outcomes identified by the Governor. Over the next couple of years the movement towards healthcare reform will accelerate.

There will be a FY 12 budget developed, with no federal dollars (stimulus dollars). There will be a significant reduction (up to \$1.8M) and we have been told there will be a two year budget issued in May or June. The Department has required the PIHP Directors to attend three mandatory meetings in the last two weeks to look at what the reductions will be. They have identified there would be a reduction in General Fund and Medicaid somewhere between 5 – 20%. The Department does not have a figure yet what it will be. It will be a permanent reduction. We will have to live within the dollars we have available and will have to find different ways to deliver care. Mike Head will have to submit a reduction proposal this Friday. There will be strong efforts to reduce as much as you can with any type of non-service related cost as you can i.e. administration or other types of activity that would not be necessary to protect as many dollars to care as you can. It won't be an easy year or so. A lot of people believe the ultimate solution is meaningful health care reform. Greg identified what the reduction would mean for Northern Lakes CMH. Identified the impact from changes with staff retiring with Department of Human Services and the Department of Community Health. Things will be different and no one really knows how this will play out. With all these tragedies it will continue again and have to find ways to reduce the frequency. There was discussion about values and expectations.

Freedom to Work Amendment – Not discussed.

RCF Meeting – Not discussed.

## **VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

JN suggested that someone could explain more about Medicare (rebate about spending so much money). KS identified that she would contact Lynn Ross and possibly she would know who to contact.

## **IX. AGENDA PLANNING**

The next meeting is scheduled for February 9, 2011 at the Traverse City Office with video conference to Houghton Lake. Items identified for the agenda: someone that knows about Medicare, finish the CAC Assessment, report on the MI Choice Waiver. Greg will forward links about the press releases.

## **X. PUBLIC COMMENT**

CR noted she will not be attending the meeting next month.

**XI. MEETING EVALUATION/ADJOURN**

None.

The meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Debra Lavender, Recording Secretary

dsl (1/31/2011)