



Waukesha County
Criminal Justice Collaborating Council
Evidence-Based Decision Making Mental Health Workgroup Minutes
Thursday, January 12, 2017

Team Members Present:

HHS Director Antwayne Robertson (Co-Chair)
Outpatient Services Admin Gordon Owley
DOC Regional Chief Sally Tess
Clinical Director Dr. James Rutherford
Attorney Maura McMahon

Menomonee Falls Police Chief Anna Ruzinski (Co-Chair)
Captain Dan Baumann
Assistant Corporation Counsel Robert Mueller
Honorable Kathryn Foster
Inspector James Gumm

Team Members Absent:

NAMI Executive Director Mary Madden

Others Present: Rebecca Luczaj, Janelle McClain, Joan Sternweis, Laura Lau, Mimi Carter

Ruzinski called the meeting to order at 12:35 p.m. The meeting began with introductions among the committee members and guests present.

Approve Minutes from November 17, 2016

Motion: Baumann moved, second by Tess, to approve the minutes from November 17, 2016. Motion carried unanimously.

Mueller arrived at 12:38 p.m.

Discuss and Consider Workgroup Membership Addition

Motion: Gumm moved, second by Mueller, to approve Laura Lau, Waukesha County Court Commissioner, as a member of the EBDM Mental Health Workgroup. Motion carried unanimously.

Review Mobile Crisis Data

Owley distributed and reviewed a handout titled *“Waukesha County DHHS Mobile Crisis Intervention Services.”* The crisis statistics provided are for adults only and cover the period of March – October 2016. The statistics provided on Crisis Services’ impact on the Courts is from 2014 – 2016.

Mueller added that overall, services were not used for individuals who did not need them, and dismissals will most likely continue to decrease before leveling out. In addition, the county’s population is increasing while the Emergency Detentions (EDs) are decreasing, which is a positive trend.

Robertson arrived at 12:54 p.m.

Rutherford stated that we should remember that people could also be significantly “better” 24-48 hours later. He looks forward to seeing a longer reporting period, as October tends to be an unpredictable month.

The workgroup discussed the issue of having a client at the Mental Health Center (MHC) who has criminal charges related to the ED, and the possibility of handling all of the criminal charges at one time via video conferencing. Video conferencing would allow the MHC staff to work through the mental health and

substance use issues that may arise because of the criminal charges, reduce transport costs to the Sheriff's Department, and would be overall less traumatic for the patients.

Lau left at 1:10 p.m.

Ruzinski would like District Attorney Sue Opper, or a representative, to attend the next EBDM Mental Health Workgroup meeting to discuss the feasibility for her staff of conducting initial appearances via video. Mueller will try to gather data on the number of police holds we typically see in a year.

McMahon left at 1:22 p.m.

Ruzinski would like to know how much money hospitals have saved due to the reduction in the number of emergency detentions. We need to be able to show financials.

Review/Update on Old Business

Baumann distributed and reviewed a document he put together for the Waukesha Police Department titled "*Overdose Incidents.*"

The members discussed accidental overdoses and having crisis staff called in to evaluate. When law enforcement is contacted for an accidental overdose, the situation should be treated like an ED, and law enforcement should stay until crisis has been called. While not all accidental overdoses call for an ED, they are still a sign of dangerous behavior, and Mueller urged that crisis staff assess the individual and make the decision. This information needs to be shared with local ERs as well, based upon emails Dr. Rutherford has received since the September meeting with emergency room doctors, stating that they let the person medically improve and then release them.

Robertson, as Director of HHS, will draft a memo to all law enforcement directing them to contact crisis staff to assess each accidental overdose to determine whether an ED is warranted. The hospital does not have the authority to contact crisis services.

Discuss Agenda Items/New Business for Next Meeting

There was a concern expressed regarding returning confiscated firearms to citizens after charges are dropped and they are released, but when the citizen exhibits obvious signs of mental illness. The workgroup members are concerned about protecting citizens' legal rights under the Second Amendment, while also ensuring public safety.

Once a person is committed, it is illegal for them to possess a firearm unless they petition the court after the commitment ends. It is legal to possess a firearm after an Emergency Detention.

The workgroup members discussed the benefit of having the citizen petition the court to get the gun back. Carter responded that the issue could be referred to the state team for review.

Adjourn

Motion: Foster moved, second by Mueller, to adjourn the meeting at 1:58 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.