

**Advisory Committee to the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program
for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Disabled
Meeting Minutes
December 7, 2011**

Members Present: Adam Bucon DMHAS
 Lauren Casey Board member
 Jason Weiland DDHH (Chair)
 Frank Smith Public Member
 Nancy Yarosh NJDVRs
 Frank Latham NJ council for Development Disabilities

Member absent: Julie Doerrmann Public Member
 Carol Uckar Public Member
 Kevin Sullivan Governor's council on Drug and Substance Abuse

CART: Jeannette Voight

Interpreters: Monica Ayrer, Cheryl Lepple-Huber

Minutes: June minutes were approved

DMHAS Report:

1. Fee for Service (FFS)

- All services may go fee for service. Approximate timeline is for 2013
- It will be similar to a managed care system
- Ensuring that services are being provided before getting paid
- All contracts that are federal and state will be fees for service including residential programs, methadone programs, outpatient and IOP programs, however the funding for this population (\$350K) is State Legislated. Unsure how this process will work as of yet.
- A new RFP for about \$350,000 might be coming out. If FFS, may give more providers the opportunity to access the funding and provide services for this population.

2. Pros and cons for FFS

- If these services go to a FFS structure, will new agency providers have knowledge to be able to provide services for those with a disabilities?
- The pro of going FFS is that DMHAS will be able to provide a wider range of services, more than possibly what the current contracts can offer.

- It would be a good idea to get feedback not only from CSS and SOS but everyone that received services to their perspective on this. We have to make sure that those with a disability do not lost in the midst. The people with disabilities are very unique as they all have different issues and these issues are approached in different ways as they are not all the same.
- The committee agrees that there should be a forum so the public can express their feedback, needs and issues/concerns.

3. Cross training between mental health staff and substance abuse staff

- Organization has many different Units within the Division
- May be a change within the Advisory Committee. Not sure if Adam Bucon will be attending the meeting as he is getting different job duties but no decision on this yet. The changes are being made to ensure a higher quality of services throughout the agency and more importantly to the consumers that they serve
- Possibility that the Addiction Advisory Committee and the Mental Health Advisory Council will merge sometime in the future but unsure since the two committees are completely different, addiction is from legislation and the mental health one is from a lawsuit. One committee is for serving all disabilities and the other is specifically for those individuals identified as Deaf and HOH
- Co-location of both entities is still being discussed but no plan as of yet

4. Working with DVRS

- Director from DVRS will meet with the Deputy Director for DMHAS in January
- Jason suggested that DDHH be involved when the two directors meet
- Possible training for both NJDVRS and substance abuse counselors
- NJDVRS is in development of a Statewide policy for working with individuals who have a substance use disorder
- It is clear that there should be a collaborative effort between the DVRS and Substance Abuse counselors to work with people who have substance use disorders

Chairman's report

- DDHH is recreating a new position called Service Coordinator and Services who will help the consumer in the area of housing , food, SSI, SSD, etc.
- Deaf Awareness Day is scheduled to be sometime in June
- Family Learning Center Day will be in April
- ASL Festival will be April 28
- DDHH is planning more training to police department and hospital

Old business

- New membership applications continue to be discussed

- **Need new members for new ideas and quorum so that can vote**
- **Need more advertisements for programs such as Center Family Services to make them more visible to the community for which they serve**
- **Possibility to have CFS advertise in the DDHH Monthly Communicator**
- **The UMDNJ "Crossings" program can advertise in the quarterly magazine**
- **UMDNJ is redoing their website**
- **"Able News" may be another publication where services can be advertised to the community**