

**Consumer Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
December 1, 2009**

Members Present: T. Ackley, Clites, Holden, Janego, Jones, Miller, Ostrander, McKenzie, Rauth, M. Wilson

Absent: Miley (ex), White (ex)

Staff/Board present: Grossman, Myers, Smith (minutes)

CALL TO ORDER

Ostrander called the meeting to order at 9:38 AM.

Introductions:

- Introductions: None
- Address correction requested. Cell phone reminder made.

Public comment (Non-CAC members): None

Previous minutes: MOTION by M. Wilson to accept the minutes as written. SUPPORTED by Janego. MOTION CARRIED.

Additions to the agenda: none

REE Survey: Eligible members took the survey.

Lenawee:

Report of Board meeting: No November meeting.

Executive Director Report: Myers.

- 2010 Budget is in place. There is a General Fund shortage, which causes us for now to end all General Fund services except for emergency. For emergency situations the consumer services will be provided until they are stable and then they will be put on a wait-list. Nearly 35 to 40% of all General Fund expenses are for spend downs.
- There is a State Revenue Conference in January, when the prediction is that there will be more budget cuts.
- 2010 is an election year. County Commission seats, Dudley Spade's position, Cameron Brown's seat plus both our District Court and Probate Court will all be available for election. We don't know who has already filed to run. **What are the best ways CAC members could communicate with the new candidates about consumer needs?**
- Many agencies are asking that adult dental services be restored to Medicaid coverage.
- Through the efforts of the Access to Health Care Committee (subgroup of Lenawee Community Collaborative) and with approval of the Lenawee County Commission a Community Health Plan has been established for our County. Three plans were

considered: 1) Monroe, 2) Jackson or 3) Branch-Hillsdale and St. Joseph. The best match for us is the third option. There are two parts to the Plan. A) childless, adults 19-64 years old, at or below 35% of poverty. (basically ABW eligible). There are about 350 persons that fall in this category. B) An additional estimated 2400 persons that are uninsured fall in this category. Type B services will require local matching funds when State funds are available. ProMedica participates on the workgroup, supports the system and will assist with provider enrollment. The services covered are outpatient only. A handbook is being designed to explain the system. Roger Myers and Mike Kight (Health Department) will serve on the Plan's Board.

- Previous questions about transportation issues with the street conversions to two way traffic downtown are being addressed. Buses are unable to stop on Main Street because it has only two lanes for traffic. Other stopping points for buses and delivery trucks on the streets with a turn lane (east/west streets) are being reviewed for safety and traffic control.
- Legislative Committee. Myers will continue to review possible issues for the committee to address. Members should also watch for specific issues and make suggestions. Holden provided a letter she received from Congressman Mark Schauer. (This letter and attachment was part of a mass mailing. See his website www.schauer.house.gov to keep updated on his efforts.

Liaison: Grossman:

- The Seeds of Hope Shared Interest group continues to meet. Cardmaking today.
- The Mental Health First Aid Training was successful.

CAC Subcommittees: (Groups CAC oversees.)

Legislative: See above.

Mental Health Awareness:

- December 16. Holiday Pot-luck for consumers, and staff. Please invite New Focus and HOPE Center members, wear your anti-stigma tee-shirts and bring a dish to pass. The occasion will start with the meeting at 11:00 AM.
- Wilson is arranging the locations for the 2010 meetings.

Affiliation:

- **Affiliation Consumer Advisory Committee:** No November meeting.

Consumer input and concerns/miscellaneous updates/ INFORMATION SHARING ONLY. (CAC does not oversee or have direct input into the operations of these organizations.)

Interconnections/Drop In Center: December 18, noon to 5 PM/ BINGO Pot-luck.

Lenawee Suicide Prevention Workgroup: The group received funding extension to continue through February.

There was a workgroup meeting to discuss goals for applying for a new grant application (funding for about 2 ½ years).

RICC: No report.

Hope Center: County Club Awards Banquet. The Center is trying to raise funds to help with tuitions.

Continuum of Care: Project Homeless Connect was successful. Give-aways and a turkey dinner were provided. Several people used the offer for using facilities at the YMCA the Friday after Thanksgiving.

Communications: Everyone is encouraged to sign up for 211 Email Blast. Starting in January global events announcements from non-profit agencies will be sent through the Blast. This will help eliminate duplication of messages, increase the number of people getting the messages, and increase the usage of 211. <http://www.centralmichigan211.org> Individual committee minutes or communications will continue to be sent as they are now.

DHS: Comments were made about communications, services and denials with DHS. Currently, DHS staff is overwhelmed by increased demand for services and the conversion to a new computer program that is drastically slowing down their work. They are months behind in handling cases. Communication about services are being transmitted automatically out of Lansing and local staff may not know about it; some letters may also be overlapping. DHS staff admit that they cannot answer phone calls. Our staff recommendation that the best means of communicating seems to be by email. This may mean establishing a free email account such as hotmail and checking in occasionally from public locations if a home computer is not available. It is also helpful to keep copies of any communications all documents about your case, so if the information is needed again you have it easily available.

Board Reporting: December 10: Ostrander (November and December reports)

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 AM.

Next meeting: January 5, 2009
(The first Tuesday of the month.)
9:30 AM-11:00 AM LCMHA