

Consumer and Family Advisory Council Meeting:

Data: CFAC Meeting was held at NTBHA on November 1.

Issues and Concerns:

FY 2012 NorthSTAR Budget

- Continued discussion of FY 2012 NorthSTAR Budget and the impact of shortfall and cuts on consumers.
- Discussed the potential reduction in Peer Services and the layoff of numerous Certified Peer Specialists by providers.
- Discussed the ambivalence of some providers to embrace the utilization of Peer Support Services.
- It was reported that during recent PAC meeting, that group declined to put forth a motion to look at incorporating peer support services into the current array of SPN services.
- Discussed the potential benefits of Providers partnering with Community Advocacy and Community Peer Support Services in order to fill in service gaps and provide support and education to consumers.
- Discussed potential cuts to some community and advocacy peer support programs and other programs due to budget shortfall.
- Discussed the upcoming closure of drop-in centers and the impact of these closures on consumers.
- Janie Metzinger discussed current efforts by the Advocacy community to get detailed accounting of changes made to the NorthSTAR Budget line item originally set by the State Legislature. Janie has requested a line item budget report for NorthSTAR and other MHAs in order to try to discern where the money actually flowed. Advocates are attempting to find out how much DSHS is permitted to alter the budget set by Legislators.
- Advocates are coming together to develop a list of questions and concerns regarding the budget and will then begin to mobilize consumers, families, and other stakeholders to reach out to their legislators.

Other Issues Discussed

- Janie also discussed proposed revision of the Texas Mental Health Code.
- Encouraged group to become familiar with current code and proposed revisions.
- It is important to make sure those doing revisions have accurate information and understanding of NorthSTAR.
- Susan Stone will be presenting on proposed revisions to the Texas Mental Health Code at the COMI meeting to be held at MHA on November 16th at 8:00am. This meeting is open to all stakeholders.

CFAC Models and Bylaws

- Ashley Zugelter is currently working to reword and modify the Mental Health Planning and Advisory Council (MHPAC) bylaws to fit the mission, needs and framework of CFAC.
- The group agreed to table action on bylaws until early next year.

Announcements

- Janie discussed some of the charges issued by the State House related to behavioral health issues. She will be sending out Mental Health Monday alerts and other communications in order to keep community stakeholders informed and initiate any needed response from the community.
- APAA is now open 7 days a week.
- Next CFAC meeting will be December 6.
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