

Mental Health Transformation – State Incentive Grant
Work Group 2: Mental Health is Consumer and Family Driven

Minutes for Thursday, March 16, 2006

1:30 PM – 4:00 PM

Convener: Al Bidorini

Group members introduced themselves.

Group conveners provided an overview of the T-SIG Grant, the President's Commission and the tasks to be accomplished, as well as timelines.

The following topics were discussed:

1. Vocabulary: different systems use different words to explain the same thing. We need to work on defining terms. What do we as a work group mean when we use certain terms? Overlap in services is missed because of language differences between agencies.
2. "System of Care": what does the state mean when it uses this term? Who is considered in "the system of care"? The Department of Public Health is also promoting a "system of care." Is it the same thing or different from what we're talking about?
3. Consumers and their families must be involved in all aspects of the services provided.
4. Question: Are we speaking about a consumer driven treatment plan when we say consumer and family driven? In some cases self-determination or consumer-driven means the consumer controls the service dollar.
5. Since we are going beyond the public system, how can all systems, including private, be held accountable?
6. Assure that consumer and family rights are protected.
7. Advocate model: we would like to see skilled advocates in all agencies.
8. Expressed the need for children's issues to be equally addressed in the work group.
9. DCF has in place some of the things that the work group is looking at in adult services.
10. We must learn from each other "Best model, best practice".
11. The idea of breaking into committees was brought up. It was decided to wait to do so until we had another opportunity to discuss the issues as a whole group.
12. The idea of having participating agencies give group presentations on their work was brought up.
13. The group began a process of brainstorming issues, barriers, and strategies under the consumer and family driven goal and several sub-goals of the President's Commission Report. Participants agreed to review and add to the items prior to the next meeting.