**BHA Workforce Development Committee (WDC) Minutes**

**April 27, 2016**

**10:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

**OWDT Training Room**

**Attendees**:

LaToya Nkongolo, Jae Brown, Catherine Meyers, Denise Camp, Deirdre Davis, Michelle Darling, Brandee Izquierdo, Hilary Phillips, Shanna Wideman, Eunice Harvey, Kris Wright, Nancy Lever, Rick Reed, Nancy Shrout-Wankowski

Michelle Darling, Chair, called meeting to order and introductions of new members were made.

Review of meeting schedule – WDC will meet quarterly with next meeting scheduled for Wednesday July 27, 2016, 10:00AM -12:00PM, BHA, Voc Rehab Building.

Quarterly meeting minutes and associated handouts and information are located on the BHA website, under the training tab:

<http://bha.dhmh.maryland.gov/Pages/BHA-Workforce-Development-Committee.aspx>

Updates:

**BHA Workforce Updates**

* Michelle Darling addressed Catherine Meyer’s questions from last meeting: What support can we get from licensing board for increased staffing to assist with expediting licenses for all applicants i.e., counseling, substance related, psychology, etc.?

The Maryland Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists (BOPCT) addressed this at the March 29 MADC Education Forum and shared with the providers that the Board has a two week turnaround to review all new applications. The Board does not take a three month vacation.

Deidre Davis will speak with providers to identify staff shortage and the Board approval process when the Board is understaffed.

* Maryland Addictions Directors Council’s (MADC) March 29th Education Forum took place at Sheppard Pratt and Tracey DeShields, Executive Director, Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists addressed “How to Improve your Business Practice.”
* MADC will provide a 2-part webinar series on a number of topics including High-Performing SUD Treatment, new dates recently announced June 14 and 28, 12:00 pm - 2:00pm. Online registration is available @ <http://madc.homestead.com>. <https://events.r20.constantcontact.com>.
* The Maryland Association of Prevention Professionals and Advocates (MAPPA) will survey Prevention Specialists, to evaluate training needs. Brandee Izquierdo will meet with Vernon Spriggs, MAPPA President, to complete a full spectrum of peer support on how MAPPA can be utilized more.
* Catherine Meyers is working with local universities to increase CPRS numbers. CPRS are in great needs but are limited because there is no payment mechanism in place and Medicaid does not pay for their services. Employment tracking and payment mechanisms were discussed as well as the fact that providers would like to hire more peers but cannot.
* Deidre Davis reported on BHA Prevention and Treatment goals and lack of data on recovery support services.
* Brandee is meeting with Jackie­­­ Pettis, Beacon Health, to discuss tracking peers and recovery support services – the need for a data tracking system.
* Deidre and Brandee both have a request in with SAMSHA on how to collect and capture data to track CPRS needs.
* Rick Reed will also check with Jacob Frances Incorporation as they also provide the same services for collecting and capturing data. See <http://www.jacob-france-institute.org/>.
* Michelle and Catherine will continue to work with SAMSHA and Medicare to obtain financial support for CPRS.
* LoToya Nkongolo reported there are 111 certified Peer Specialists and 24 took the exam this year. All but four individuals passed. There will be two test prep courses given May 20, 2016, (which is full) and June 8, 2016. The class capacity is 25. There are nine re-certification trainings across the state of Maryland including Peer Recovery Specialist Domain Training and two CPRS Summits.
* Deidre asked when the MARs CEUs certificates will be given to participants. Nancy Shrout -Wankowski and Jae Brown will follow up.
* SAMHSAs Region 3(R3) will participate in Workforce Development Conference 6/2 & 6/3/2016. The focus will be funding for salaries and training, recruitment and retention, peer workforce subgroup, obtaining licensing and Medicaid reimbursement for peers, and social work practice mobility.
* Michelle discussed the Lt. Governor’s Task Force recommendations and monthly report on the number of peer trainings offered and the number of peers attending all training events.
* Brandee discussed Recovery Assessment Tool – quality of life measures and peer performance measures.
* Denise mentioned upcoming re-certification training for peers.

**Denise Camp/ Hilary Phillips- Stakeholder Meeting Update**

BHA's Office of Planning hosts the Annual Stakeholders meeting as one phase of the Administration's plan development process. The format of the most recent meeting was structured around the four priority areas Dr. Bazron has identified as key areas to further behavioral health integration. As a result of the breakout groups, recommendations identified from the four priority areas will be reviewed, and as appropriate, developed into strategies and included in the FY 2017 State Behavioral Health Plan.

* During the meeting each group did a SWOT analysis (strength, weakness, opportunity and threats) in one summary and discussed the results.
* There was a discussion about the definition of Peer Support and whether it should include family members. If so, should there be a special certification process for the family members.
* Michelle stated peer certified trainers have increased from four to eight, and training is now available in rural areas. Behavioral Health webinar will be explored for future use along with AVATAR system training.
* The Maryland Center of Excellence on Problem Gambling will present at the BHA Conference and Brandee is meeting with them to develop training for Peer Specialists. Nancy Lever mentioned The Maryland Center of Excellence on Gambling will also be going into the high schools.

**Presentations:**

Kris Wright kris.wright@maryland.gov. – Maryland Healthy Transitions Grant: Evidenced – Based Practice Dissemination and Implementation. The healthy transitions initiative was a state/community partnership aimed at improving outcomes for transition-Age Youth with serious mental health conditions in such areas as education, employment, housing, mental health and co-occurring disorders, and at decreasing contacts with the juvenile and criminal justice system.

Shanna Wideman shanna.wideman@maryland.gov – MD-BHAY Grant – Maryland Behavior Health Adolescent and Youth Treatment. **MD-BHAY** is increasing access to and improving the quality of treatment for youth, ages 12 to 24, with substance use and co-occurring substance use and mental health disorders. Due to chronic systemic gaps in care and recovery supports for this population, MD-BHAY this project is enhancing statewide infrastructure, delivering evidence-based treatment in school and community settings, and developing funding and delivery mechanisms to sustain these changes.

Next meeting: **Wednesday, July 27, 2016, 10:00AM -12:00PM, BHA, Voc Rehab Building.**