

Mental Health Partnership Council

September 2005

Roots of the Council

The Mental Health Partnership Council of Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham Counties, formed in the summer of 2005, has its roots in a number of other community dialogue processes:

The Advisory Councils which have provided guidance to the Community Mental Health Authority of Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham Counties (CMH) since the 1970s

The series of Community Dialogues on Mental Health - part of the Community Voice Initiative funded by the W.K. Kellogg and Robert Wood Johnson Foundations - that occurred throughout the tri-county community in 2004 and 2005.

The Citizen Action efforts (including community education and direct action by citizens to impact mental health policy and funding) which began in 2000, and are coordinated by CMH, mental health advocates and stakeholders.

The Council has been formed to further these dialogue and action efforts.

Purpose of the Council

The Council's purpose is to promote the mental health of the tri-county community and the quality and accessibility of mental health services within the community. Mental health services include those prevention and treatment services provided to adults with mental illness, children with emotional disturbances, persons with developmental disabilities, and persons with substance abuse disorders - of varying intensity.

The Council **does not take the place** of the governing bodies nor customer services/complaint and grievance offices of CMH or any other organization. Rather it is meant to be a venue in which a range of issues - often complex and difficult issues - will be discussed and proposals for action and further discussion generated.

Actions of the Council

The Council carries out its work through the following actions through a collegial and collaborative approach ("we are all in this together") rather than a competitive approach ("us versus them").

A. Identification of community needs: Gather and discuss information relative to this community's mental health needs

B. Identification and strengthening of community assets: Identify our community's existing assets and strengths that foster mental health and work to strengthen them

C. Understanding and improving mental health services: Serve as a venue for the discussion of the work of the community's mental health service providers (including Community Mental Health) and the environment in which they work

D. Taking action to improve mental health and mental health services: Serve as a place to identify ways in which Partnership members and other stakeholders (consumers, their families, and others with an interest in the community's mental health) can impact: the community's mental health, the community's understanding of mental health issues and local, state, and federal policies related to mental health services.

Council Membership and Leadership

The Council is made up of a range of community members and representatives of organizations concerned about mental health, including CMH consumers, families, and other partners.

The Council is led by its members.

Council Meeting Location, Schedule, Food, Per Diem, Staffing of Council

The meetings are held bi-monthly, **The Council is in the process of revising its meeting schedule to align with a series of community education and dialogue events on mental health.**

Council meetings will take place at:

Room G 11C (Ground Floor)
Community Mental Health Offices
812 East Jolly Road
Lansing, Michigan

Food is be provided at each meeting.

The consumers of CMH services who are appointed to the Council will receive **per diem payments of \$25.00** per meeting for their active participation on the Council.

The Council is **staffed by the staff of Community Mental Health** (mailings coordinated, materials copied and provided, child care arranged, food provided). Council members will receive the agenda of the meeting at least a week in advance and will be able to contact a CMH contact person to request changes/additions to the agenda. The minutes of each meeting will be included with the mailing of each meeting's agenda.

If you would like to attend a meeting to see if this is for you, contact Judy Hazle at 517-346-8238.