

To: MH/MR Administrators
From: Michael D. Chambers
Date: May 29, 2009
Subject: Bullets

"If you find yourself in a hole, the first thing to do is stop diggin'."
- Old Farmer

(The above quote is not under copyright. You can feel free to share with any DPW leaders that you may encounter.)

Intern: In case you have forgotten, we are pleased that Kristen Goshorn, Government Relations Manager for CCAP, has agreed to serve her graduate school internship with MH/MR PAAP. This has an important purpose for all of us who are members or staff of the association. We recognize that the association membership will face new and evolving issues over the next several years and at an accelerated pace. Turnover among MH/MR Administrators and county program staff has increased significantly and will continue to do so. Many of us are reaching the age where retirement is an option, if not a necessity. Younger people tend to keep jobs for shorter periods of time and we can no longer expect that managers will remain in their positions for 30 years or more. At the same time we are experiencing sweeping changes in State and Federal policy, some of which might be positive. Other changes may make the working environment unpleasant enough that staff will move on sooner rather than later.

The bottom line is that the association will have to make significant adjustments if we are to continue to be successful in the future. While you or I may not be involved in the later stages of that process, we need to plan a process and start it.

That's where Kristen comes in. Kristen will focus her project on researching within the association and around the state and nation. Then she will report on her findings and offer recommendations to the Board of Directors at its Strategic Planning Retreat in September. We are fortunate to have the services of a person with a delightful blend of experience, talent and skill to help us with this process. She is smart. I think you'll like her, too.

That's where you come in. Kristen will be contacting you by email and possibly by telephone. Some of you may actually be blessed with a visit. She is likely to ask you to take some surveys, via Survey Monkey, as well. We hope that you will help us through your cooperation in communicating freely with her and in completing the surveys. This is important to MH/MR PAAP and ultimately to you and your programs.

OMHSAS Solicits Final Comments on PCH Policy: Earlier this week we sent out the OMHSAS draft PCH policy to Administrators and mental health directors. The draft has been floating around for some time and OMHSAS is now trying to finalize it. Please take the time to review it and send either Linda Zelch or Deb Neifert your comments. Comments are due to OMHSAS on June 15.

Youth and Family Training Institute Videoconference and Webcast Series:

The Youth and Family Training Institute is hosting a videoconference and webcast series. The sites are in Pittsburgh, Beaver, Edinboro, Harrisburg, King of Prussia and Tobyhanna. The upcoming programs are:

Integrating Family Members as Staff, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm on June 2, 2009

Ethical and Legal Issues in Children's Mental Health, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm on June 16, 2009

Suicide Prevention in Primary Care, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm on June 23, 2009

Suicide Prevention in Schools, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm on June 30, 2009

For more information or to register for the programs, please visit

www.wpic.pitt.edu/oerp/yftivideo<<http://www.wpic.pitt.edu/oerp/yftivideo>.

Continuing Education Credits are available for these programs. Please contact

Kyessa L. Brian at briankl@upmc.edu<<mailto:briankl@upmc.edu>> for more

information.

Network of Care: The Association continues to support efforts in making Network of Care a viable resource to local information. In the near future, counties that have yet to post information will be urged to do so. The Pennsylvania Mental Health Consumers Group will have Network of Care present at their conference, which is June 9 – 12 at the Harrisburg-Hershey Sheraton, which most likely will result in consumers requesting your local resources be up on the site.

Administrative Entity Operating Agreement: We are still waiting for ODP to issue the latest version of the AEOA. It is supposed to be out this week, so there are still a few hours to wait, maybe more. Thanks to all of you for standing as a group as this process unfolds. I'm proud of you.

No, this is not a holiday weekend, but we can pretend that it is! Have a great weekend.

Mike