

State of Michigan
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH
LANSING, MICHIGAN 48913

RICK SNYDER, GOVERNOR

OLGA DAZZO, DIRECTOR

MINUTES

RECIPIENT RIGHTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

June 9, 2011
1st Floor Conference Room, Lewis Cass Building
Lansing, Michigan 48913

Mission

It is the mission of the Michigan Department of Community Health Recipient Rights Advisory Committee to advise the Directors of the Michigan Department of Community Health and the State Office of Recipient Rights in order to ensure that the rights of individuals receiving public mental health services are protected and promoted.

Vision

It is the vision of the Michigan Department of Community Health Recipient Rights Advisory Committee that Michigan values a public mental health system in which individuals receiving services are treated with dignity and respect, enjoy full and fair access to the rights accorded them and are free to participate fully in all aspects of their lives.

ATTENDANCE

Abdallah Boumediene, Mark Reinstein, Vendella Collins, Wayne Hogan

STAFF PRESENT

John Sanford, Dianne Baker, Beverly Sobolewski, Alma Staton

PUBLIC PRESENT

Denise Virgo, WCHO; Brian Sabourin, MPAS; Roanne Bonney, KCMHSAS

DIALOGUE WITH DIRECTOR DAZZO

Due to Director Dazzo's time constraints, the dialogue was initiated prior to the business meeting. Accompanying Director Dazzo was Tony Stamas, MDCH Legislative Liaison.

RRAC members present introduced themselves and described their respective interest in mental health services and especially recipient rights. The public was also offered the opportunity to do the same.

The following concerns were discussed with Director Dazzo:

1. Establishment of a meaningful dialogue with Director Dazzo regarding unresolved and/or on-going recipient rights concerns.

Director Dazzo was readily agreeable to participating in periodic meetings with the RRAC.

2. Resolution of conflict between DCH Strategic Plan, March 18, 2011, and draft ORR Strategic Priorities

DCH Strategic Plan, Page 21– State Psychiatric Hospitals and Forensic Mental Health Services – #3. Hours of seclusion will be below national average

Draft ORR Strategic Priorities, #3 To reduce or eliminate the use of restraint and seclusion at state psychiatric hospitals and centers through development of a culture of care and comfort.

Director Dazzo indicated that the set of measures established in the March 18, 2011 DCH Strategic Plan is not cut in stone. There will be a new set established in the Fall. Director Dazzo suggested that the language of the ORR Strategic Priority be submitted to Cindy Kelly for consideration and substitution when the new set of measures is established for State Psychiatric Hospitals and Forensic Mental Health Services.

3. Need review of provisions of Mental Health Code, Chapter 10, MCL 330.2003 – 330.2005d, regarding the Corrections Mental Health Program with special attention to MCL 330.2004a, **Rights of prisoners** and MCL 330.2004b **Notice of Rights**.

Reinstein explained to Director Dazzo and Tony Stamas the concern regarding the status of the rights system within the Corrections Mental Health Program since the program was transferred in February from DCH to MDOC to directly operate. The Mental Health Code at Section 1004b indicates that MDOC will provide prisoners in the mental health program the opportunity to consult with 1 of 3 entities as designated by MDOC. Prior to the February transfer, the “rights advisor” from DCH-ORR was actually the Grievance Coordinator whose position indirectly reported to the ORR Director. That individual is now an MDOC employee and does not even indirectly report to the ORR Director. As such, the Corrections Mental Health Program is not in compliance with the Code.

Director Dazzo suggested the ORR contact Linda Zeller, MDOC, Director of Health Services, to discuss the concern. If no satisfactory resolution, she will speak to the MDOC Director.

4. Veteran RRAC members have been frustrated over several years by the perception that, at times, state hospitals and centers do not appear to follow rights directives and requirements from the DCH.

RRAC members discussed concerns including the long-standing failure of some facilities to develop protocols for implementation of DCH Rights Policies and Procedures, insisting on establishing and maintaining their own facility rights policies. Sanford and Baker indicated that they had e-mailed and talked to Cindy about the problem. Director Dazzo explained that Cindy is pretty overwhelmed currently given her Interim Deputy Directorship of the Behavioral Health/Developmental Disability Administration as well as her responsibilities as Director of the Bureau of Hospitals, Centers and Forensic Mental Health Services. She suggested we continue to pursue this with Cindy giving her some consideration. She will also speak to her about the concern.

5. Status of the ORR proposed Mental Health Code amendments at Chapter 7 and Chapter 7A.

Tony Stamas informed the RRAC that he has received the proposed Code amendments from ORR and will begin reviewing them in the next few weeks.

6. Protection of the ORR from pressures interfering with the impartial, even-handed and thorough performance of its duties – assurances of adequate staff resources?

ORR has been dealing with HR on the filling of the vacancy at WRPH created by the retirement of one of the 2 rights advisors there. Director Dazzo indicated that this is a very difficult budget the department is dealing with. She and Leadership have been carefully scrutinizing position vacancies. Sanford reported that he had talked with Nick Lyon about the WRPH position and has provided HR with data. Director Dazzo said she would speak with Nick as well but, in the end, the position will probably not be filled. Discussion ensued.

At the conclusion of the above dialogue, Director Dazzo provided her vision of mental health services in Michigan. She referred to the DCH Strategic Plan and the areas of wellness and integration of mental health and physical health. She invited the RRAC to attend a Summit in the Fall.

CALL TO ORDER

The business portion of the RRAC was called to order at 2:45 p.m. by Acting Chair, Abdallah Boumediene

AGENDA APPROVAL

Tabled due to lack of quorum.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES (May 12, 2011)

Tabled due to lack of quorum.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

OTHER BUSINESS

Lengthy discussion was held regarding the lack of attendance by a number of RRAC members.

NEXT MEETING – NOTE MEETING DATE AND LOCATION

July 14, 2011, 1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Hawthorn Center
18471 Haggerty Rd
Northville, MI 48168-8513

September 8, 2011, 1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Lewis Cass Building, 3rd Floor Conference Room
Lansing, MI 48913

November 10, 2011, 1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Walter Reuther Psychiatric Hospital
30901 Palmer Rd.
Westland, MI 48186

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

