FOR APPROVAL

DATE: February 24, 2005


BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: C. Bailey, P. Saddington, G. Scruggs, O. Taylor


The meeting was called to order at 4:02 p.m.

Approval of Agenda

(Resolution #023-05)

Lee moved, Keller supported approval of the agenda.

MOTION CARRIED

Public Participation

Ms. Ramona Deese, NAMI, read a statement to the Board asking that services not be reduced for adults in order to fund services to children.

Mr. Paul Jordan made a statement related to his tenure as the Supervisor at Children and Family Services, staffing issues, quality improvement projects, etc. He provided a written document for the Board’s review related to the information that will be discussed later in the meeting.

Children’s Services

Mr. Russell indicated that this is not a new issue as staff has been working on this for quite some time. He went on to state that this is not just a mental health issue but a community one as well since children have multiple needs, i.e., FIA, the schools, courts, etc. As a partner in many community initiatives, CMH is working with a host of agencies to identify where gaps in systems are occurring. Of concern is not the number of kids currently being seen but the low number of referrals into the system. More education will be conducted in the community.

Nancy Rodda provided an overview of services provided to children and their families. These
services include: intake, supports coordination/case management, professional support, children’s waiver, medication clinic, family support subsidy, home based, wraparound, respite, juvenile justice, transition services and Safe Schools/Healthy Kids. Current staffing in Children’s Services is: 19 therapists, 2 supervisors, and 1 director. From October – January there were 298 kids screened and there was a decrease of referrals out to other providers.

Jon Nigrine presented information on the State’s data requirements. The State has identified a separate method of calculating the penetration rate of adults and children. The manner in which the rate is set for children does not take into consideration that kids have more natural support systems (such as parents) than do adults, more kids than adults are covered under a private insurance plan therefore a percentage of children maybe are being seen in the private sector and there is no requirement for the private sector to share this data. He also reviewed the corrected data that shows how many kids were seen vs how many kids had open cases. The number of kids served is very consistent over a period of time.

Jim Woolcock stated that the Agency is looking at how it’s meeting the needs of the community. There are several initiatives that have begun: recent TV commercials highlighting children’s services; CMH is on more community committees; CMH is expanding into the schools; there is discussion on developing case finder position, expand current services in the juvenile courts. The Agency is looking at efficiencies, as it wants to continue to be the best value.

Mrs. Lee referenced the QAPIP Performance Improvement Project report #1. Specifically she asked questions about to credentialing and paperwork. Mr. Woolcock responded that the credentialing requirement is dictated by the State and according to the recent DCH audit (97%) there is still room for improvement.

Mr. A. Bailey asked about the points addressed in Mr. Jordan’s report as it was an overall critical document. Mr. Russell stated that the presentation today did address the concerns raised by Mr. Jordan although not point-by-point. Management reviewed the document and found nothing new or surprising in it. Administration has been working on children’s issues for quite some time. There have been attempts to bring on other service providers such as Mott Children’s Health Center however they were not interested. Recently, the Board approved a contract with Easter Seals to provide services to children.

Adjourned 5:55 p.m.