

OMHSAS Adult Advisory Committee CSP Regional Report Summary for September 2011

Submitted by: Sharon A. Miller, a Western Region CSP co-chair, regional CSP representative member of OMHSAS Adult Advisory Committee, *and* Director of Education & Community Relations, NAMI Southwestern PA

WRCSP Co-Chair Contact Info: Bonnie Gallaher; gallaherb@fswpa.org / Wendy Keefer: wkefer@atlanticbb.net / Sharon Miller: (888) 264-7972 / smiller@namiswpa.org

Technical Assistance: Laurie Combs at CHAPS DIC (814) 333-2924 / wrcsp2006@yahoo.com
WRCSP Toll Free: (866) 400-0620

Meeting Format: Meetings continue to be held on the second Friday monthly at the Tanglewood Center in Butler. Attendance consistently averages about 75 to 80 individuals. Meetings now alternate between offering an educational presentation and the convening of the standing workgroups. Monthly reports are given by OMHSAS, NAMI SWPA, PMHCA and PAPSRS along with opportunities for local CSP representatives and other stakeholders to report. The convenings continue to have a strong focus on information sharing and each meeting devotes time to mobilize support to engage in specific legislative advocacy. Some examples of key issues that have been addressed at recent meetings are:

- State budget updates
- New co-pays for medical assistance transportation program (MATP) to treatment services
- Decrease in mileage reimbursement from MATP for personal transportation costs to services
- Decrease in mileage reimbursement for OMHSAS Advisory Committee participation and elimination of lodging reimbursement
- Changes in Medical Assistance renewal process and shortened timeframes for notification of termination to individuals
- New limits on MA pharmacy benefits to a 6 medication limit per individual

Monthly Meeting Summaries Since Last Reporting:

- July: The annual “Celebrate Recovery Picnic” was held at Moraine State Park in Butler County. Although the weather was uncooperative the turn out was great and our enthusiasm was not dampened.
- August: 2010-11 Seed Grant Showcase. All seed grant recipients from the past fiscal year presented a summary of their specific project with instructions for replication throughout the region. Additionally we reviewed the seed grant policy and encouraged members to begin to identify new projects for seed grant funding consideration.

Identification of Standing Workgroup Activities for FY 2011-12: During the September regional meeting each workgroup will identify one education presentation and/or a product or activity for distribution or replication throughout the 23 county region. The standing workgroups are: Anti-Stigma / Peer 2 Peer / Drop-in-Center Coalition / CFST / Recovery Education / Psych Rehab / Legislative Advocacy

WRCSP Scholarship Applications: The intent of the scholarship program is to expand opportunities for people living with mental illnesses and family members to participate in educational programs and conferences held within PA. Scholarship applications should be

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submitted as soon as possible for consideration of support for the NAMI PA conference in October. Contact CHAPS to request an application.

RFP for Technical Assistance: Two very qualified respondents submitted proposals to the RFP. The proposals were reviewed during the August steering committee meeting resulting in a majority vote to award the contract to CHAPS.

WRCSP FY 2011-12 Budget: During the August steering committee meeting the current fiscal year budget and line item allocations were reviewed and finalized.

Technical Assistance to Local CSPs: WRCSP steering committee members are available for the provision of assistance in strengthening the effectiveness of local county CSPs. Currently Beaver County is revitalizing the community support program through the input of local key stakeholders with NAMI Southwestern PA, WRCSP and Value Behavioral Health support. Contact CHAPS or Sharon Miller for more information.