

**Southeastern Regional MH/DD/SAS
Provider Community Meeting Minutes
March 2, 2005**

Providers Present: 32

LME Staff Present: 16

Gary Allen, Contracts Manager called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm. Gary announced that the make-up date for NCTOPPS training for direct enrolled providers will be Friday, March 4, 2005 from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon in Section A of the auditorium. Incident training will be held on March 30, 2005 9:00 am – 12:00 pm and 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm in the auditorium. Gary announced that DHHS would be providing Service Code definition training to consumers and their families throughout the state on March 16, 2005 beginning 4:30 pm – 8:00 pm at Robeson Community College and Bladen Community College. There are only 20 seats available at each location for this teleconference. Participants must register with the division to attend.

Sharen Prevatte discussed the contents of a letter that was handed out to providers regarding prospective divestiture plans. This past Tuesday night, SRMH/DD/SAS's board approved a recommendation by Management to divest of Medical, Outpatient Clinical and Case Management Services. The LME has been working on this process for the last several months. Although the Board approved the decisions, it was not a unanimous approval. There was concern from three Board members. There were concerns about consumer choice, about a provider outside our catchment area being awarded the contract, and about staff and how they would be taken care of throughout the process. Sharen informed the group that the LME had to be operating as an LME as of July 1, 2004 in order to get their state funding. The LME had many issues to deal with during the past year in order to get up and running. The target date to divest of these services will be June 30, 2005.

Beginning immediately, all consumers coming through our Screening, Triage and Referral process for assessments and therapy will be referred out to providers who are currently directly enrolled with DMA to provide these services. We will continue to provide case management and medical services until we can work out these issues and the service definitions fall into place. The LME will also have to figure out endorsements for providers. Those rules and guidelines will be available for review in the near future. Hopefully we will all understand exactly what that endorsement process will be.

Another issue is consumer choice. We encourage all providers who are directly enrolled to provide clinical services to provide us with information that we can put in our reception areas and waiting rooms about your services.

Friday, March 4, 2005 a RFP for Medical, Outpatient Clinical and Case Management Services will be issued. This RFP will be looking for one provider to assume the services that we are providing in our four centers. This will be for all disabilities and all ages. The RFP will also be available on our website. The consumers that we are currently serving will be given a choice of whether to stay with the provider awarded the RFP or to go with another provider. They will not be automatically transferred over to the single provider. Separate RFP's will be issued for PSR, ADVP and ACTT in the next few months.

As of March 1, 2005, those providers who are direct enrolled to provide counseling and therapy must bill direct to DMA. Please feel free to call Gary Allen or Caroline Staton if you have any questions that I cannot answer today. If they cannot answer your questions, they will be brought before management team and get back with you. Providers questions and answers will be placed on the agency's website. Service Definitions are on the division's website and are open for public comment until April 7th.

Dr. Purdy informed the providers that a service that will be divested is the outpatient medical service. Services will continue to be provided through this period by the adult and children psychiatrists. The LME will be keeping inpatient services, because it is the only psychiatric unit provided by hospitals in this area. This unit keeps the number of people needing to go to state facilities at a minimum. The plan is to develop a crisis team to help out with inpatient admissions. Under the new system, each provider will be required to provide first response crisis services. That means these services must be provided 24/7/365. The LME will be the back up for consumers needing hospitalization. The LME is in the process of writing a grant to the Kate B. Reynolds Foundation for a crisis unit. The crisis unit will be used to keep consumers from being admitted to the inpatient unit. The plan is for 8 adult beds and 4 child/adolescent beds. The unit will be located at the old administrative building near the hospital. Dr. Purdy asked for the support of the providers in establishing this unit. Sample letters were passed out to the providers for them to submit letters of support to the Kate B. Reynolds Foundation. Dr. Purdy went over the functions of ACTT with the providers.

Laura Smith-Allen talked about child specific crisis services for children through a grant. The award date of this grant is March 25th. March 4th, in Bladen County, there will be a System of Care kickoff. This luncheon meeting will be held in conjunction with Bladen County Department of Social Services at the Barn in Elizabethtown from 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm. Bladen County Department of Social Services has been awarded a 5-year grant federal grant to implement System of Care. Bladen County Department of Social Services will be hiring a full time family advocate to work with the families of Bladen County. This person will be located in the Family Resource Center in Bladenboro.

On May 11th and 12th SRAHEC will be conducting a workshop about Trauma Impact on Children and How to Do Treatment at the LME's auditorium. Laura asked for a count of how many providers would be attending this workshop. The two-day workshop discounted rate will be \$110.00 per person. This fee includes registration and lunch/refreshments for both days.

Gary asked that providers submit their profiles to Provider Relations Division, so that they can be placed on G drive. The form can be assessed on our website. Fifty-eight providers and two hundred seventy consumers participated in the Provider Fair. Gary gave an update on the residential suspension of services through the division. As of March 24th five homes have been monitored in Columbus County. Gary said he received an e-mail from one of the group homes that went through this state audit. He read portions of it to the providers.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for April 6, 2005 at 1:30 pm.

Submitted by,

Sheila Beatty
Program Assistant