



Site-based Team Meeting Minutes, Northfield  
**August 23, 2005**

## Meeting Minutes

Present: Georgia Brokaw, Bob Buchanan, Carla Clasen, Irene Diritsky, Kevin Eison, Cathy Graves, Debra Grier, John Hall, Susan Kajfasz, Pat Mogan, Linda Mowrey, Linda Rhea, Robert Robinson, Jeff Sims, Woody Weimer, Sharon D. Williams, Mary A. Wilson, Earnest Wimbley

**I.** Linda opened the meeting and introductions were made

### **II. Background Materials distributed**

Carla distributed the following materials as background:

- Notes from the Twin Valley Best Practices meeting April 19
- Notes from meetings with site based team on June 27
- Results from a survey of TPWs done by Brian Walton
- The 26 core competencies for TPWs
- High Level Curriculum and Detailed Curriculum re: Mental Health and its Treatment in Adults (Dawn Snyder)
- Performance measures

Carla also brought two copies of the Mental Health and Its Treatment in Adults cluster curriculum developed by the Center for Healthy Communities. These materials include the Student Workbook, Faculty Guide, and course resources on CD-ROM.

### **III. Progress report – Linda Mowrey**

The goal is to pilot a course called Mental Health and Its Treatment in Adults for TPWs in the state behavioral health care system through community colleges. Members of the Dayton-based team (Kate Cauley, Carla Clasen, Carla Lachecki of CHC and Linda Mowrey of Sinclair Community College) have met with the Summit/Cincinnati State University team as well as with this team. We have also been in communication with other community colleges in Ohio and have met with a coalition of community college programs that represent the best programs to partner with BHOs in adopting this curriculum, for example, programs in mental health, social services, and alcohol and drug abuse. Community colleges are familiar with the needs of their communities and partnering with facilities. We have been in close contact with Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C) and Cincinnati State faculty in reviewing the curriculum, understanding how the colleges work and discovering the processes that need to be in place. We'd like to use this meeting to begin a dialogue between CCC and Northcoast with a view to implementing this course this winter.

One issue that arose at our last meeting was whether TPWs would be resistant to taking a college course. To help address this issue, Cathy Graves, a former employee of Twin Valley Behavioral Healthcare Organization, Dayton Campus, will speak about her experience with a similar course offered through Sinclair Community College.

#### **IV. Cathy Graves**

Cathy spoke about her experience with taking a college credit course through Sinclair Community College. This course was similar to the process we are engaged in now. This course was offered at the Twin Valley Dayton Campus by instructors from Sinclair Community College. Cathy stated that she and the other students were very apprehensive at first. They were motivated by the fact that both management and OCSEA wanted them to succeed and offered support. The fact that the course was free and they could do it on state time was also a motivation. The students also drew a lot of support from each other. There were very few who dropped the course. Cathy decided to use the course as a first step toward acquiring a degree. She said that supervisors were hesitant at first about the value of the course, but saw the results after the class, in the ways that workers taught the patients, reacted to them, and contributed in team meetings. Cathy said the course has also been valuable to her in the rest of her life. She said that the teachers were very supportive and accommodating, allowing students who couldn't type to hand write their papers. The interest seemed to be in everyone getting an education. Other treatment team members were also very encouraging and supporting. Cathy noted that, after the class, the treatment team took her co-workers more seriously.

The course was marketed through several avenues. There were booths at fairs, Sinclair faculty would come in and show a video about the school, notices went out with paychecks. There were shift meetings to answer questions. Family of students were involved through a ceremony with cake and punch at the beginning and a certificate award ceremony at the end of the year. This was a certificate program at first, but some students decided they wanted to go on with their education. To obtain a degree, they were able to take about 80-90% of their coursework at the BHO campus, and had to go to the Sinclair campus for the rest. Linda noted that it was a plus for the college to have students who had experience working with the severely mentally ill, that it enriched the experience for other students.

Woody Weimer noted that workforce development is partly market driven. Part of the reward of continuing education for workers is to be sure that we are relevant in the marketplace and offering what payors want. It was noted that the union plays a big part in making sure that TPWs are aware of the need to be relevant and competitive with private system hospitals. More workers are aware of this need for greater skills and it may be easier to get people motivated to participate in classes like this.

Susan Kajfasz asked about the value of having in-house mentors to the students. Cathy and Linda said that this was very important. Linda noted that the people who continue to reach their goals are the ones who have support, from family, co-workers, or others. Susan sees a role for her and the nursing department as being supportive mentors for students.

#### **V. Irene Diritsky**

Irene spoke about the Human Services program at Cuyahoga Community College. Started in 1967, they now have two majors: Generalist and Chemical Dependency Specialist. Each is a two year program and each requires some credit hours in specialized courses. CCC has three campuses and offers many supportive services for students, for example, English tutoring and support on topics like how to take a test. Irene recommends that she or someone from CCC come in and talk to workers about the support available. Irene pointed out that with a 2 year Human Services degree a person can apply for Social Work Assistance licensure and that an AD degree opens the door for non-direct care jobs as well as serving as a ladder to the next degree.

The Mental Health and Its Treatment in Adults course will be offered in its pilot form as a Special Topics course. For Special Topics no curriculum review or approval is necessary, but if the course is to

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be added as a specialized course to count toward a degree, the curriculum will need to be reviewed and approved in May.

Enrollment for Special Topics does NOT require placement testing. Irene does not recommend testing at this time, to avoid causing anxiety and resistance in students.

Tri-C allows batch registration: i.e., students would not have to go to Tri-C to register, information can be collected at Northcoast and sent in a batch with payment to Tri-C. Linda gave Carla the packet detailing the procedure to follow. Linda stated that Tri-C usually requires an enrollment of at least 12 students for a course to be offered. Carla stated that for this pilot course, we want the course to be offered even if enrollment is less than 12. Irene said that this can generally be worked out and gave Carla the contact for Barbara Mikuszewski, Associate Dean.

#### **VI. Logistics and further meetings**

Irene said that a 3 credit hour course means 48 hours of instruction over a 16 week semester period. For Special Topics this can be split up into parts if it appears that that will work better for the students. Irene says that the 3 hour a week instruction can be done during one session or two 1 ½ hour sessions per week. Her recommendation would be one 3 hour (actually 2 hour 50 minute) session per week.

Irene Diritsky and Bob Buchanan agreed to schedule further meetings to discuss the details and logistics of the class. Bob gathered the names of others who wish to be present at these meetings. The Dayton based team offered to be part of the meetings if desired.

**VII.** Carla noted that the minutes of the meetings of both the Summit and Northcoast teams will be posted to the Center for Healthy Communities websites so that each team can be aware of the activities of the other. They can be accessed at:

<http://www.med.wright.edu/chc/programs/odmhproject.htm>

Meeting was adjourned at 12:15 pm.