

**Ozarks Mental Health Network**  
OzMHNetwork@gmail.com  
**October 15, 2015 • 3:30-5:30 Thursday**  
**Lutheran Family & Children Services**  
**2130 N. Glenstone, Springfield**

**Minutes**

League President Leslie Carrier called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm. After welcoming everyone she introduced the three co-chairs of the Mental Health Committee: Maggie Castrey, Lisa C. Hall and Joye Norris

Attendees introduced themselves briefly and described a challenge or opportunity they faced or gave a pat on back.

**Structure and Origin of Ozarks Mental Health Network**

Maggie briefly reported on results of 6-question survey in early September. We received 32 responses. 80% requested a Mental Health Network, which the League has decided to facilitate until area providers can take it over. 100% said they'd come to meetings to share information. 70% of respondents wanted the Network to educate the community. 60% wanted speakers from Greene County or beyond. 40% wanted to see a formal networking and referral system developed and better coordination of services. Other areas included increasing availability of affordable medications, setting up procedures for operating the network, reducing documentation to receive services, increasing resources available for patient follow up, increasing affordable housing, and developing an online and printed list of resources, contacts and services.

Lisa briefly described the history of the two-year study that led to the convening of the mental health network. The full study, an executive summary and the League's positions on mental health are available at [lwvswmo.org](http://lwvswmo.org).

**Excellence in Mental Health Act**

The League's report has been presented to Representative Roy Blunt, a co-sponsor of the bipartisan Excellence in Mental Health Act, which was signed into law in May 2015. It establishes a demonstration program that will offer patients increased services like 24-hour crisis psychiatric care, counseling, and integrated treatments for mental illness. Up to 25 states will receive planning grants with awards slated for this month. Of those, eight will participate in the Excellence project.

**Task Force on Medicaid Managed Care Expansion**

Chuck Hollister, Director, Missouri Psychological Association, reported that he has been appointed to the upcoming legislative Task Force Examining Medicaid Delivery, whose first hearing will take place October 20 in House Hearing Room 6. He said HB11 authorized managed care for the state last spring. There was no public hearing on the bill, which passed in a hearing of the Appropriations Committee. One

managed care organization spent \$325,000 and hired 11 lobbyists in their effort to get it passed.

The bill reduces entitlements with a 2 percent saving for the state resulting in 6 percent reduction in provider pay. There are not enough providers already, and they don't want to take managed care. Counseling personnel have not received a raise in 30 years.

Need to move forward on what actions can be taken. Things to consider include:

1. Advocated for a carve-out to keep Behavioral Health within Medicaid.
2. Managed care leaves private providers vulnerable.
3. Require tight controls from Department of Insurance as it's not under MoHealthNet.
4. Look at billable hours as psychologists are getting 1/3 reimbursement.

Paul Thomlinson, of Burrell, said that a plethora of studies show managed care does not work for patients. Look at studies in Ohio. Mike Bruns described his experiences in Oklahoma where providers have eliminated codes for brain injury making it impossible to get services covered. Other resources are the Health Care Foundation of Kansas City and the DMH website with statistics regarding untreated illness.

[http://www.house.mo.gov/content.aspx?info=/info/TF\\_EXAMINING\\_MEDICAID\\_DELIVERY\\_2015.htm](http://www.house.mo.gov/content.aspx?info=/info/TF_EXAMINING_MEDICAID_DELIVERY_2015.htm)

Task Force Members include:

Co-Chair - Rep. Marsha Haefner

Co-Chair - Sen. David Sater

Sen. Kurt Schaefer

Sen. Bob Onder

Sen. Jeanie Riddle

Sen. Scott Sifton

Rep. Sue Allen

Rep. Justin Alferman

Rep. Deb Lavender

Rep. Jim Neely

Ms. Paula Baker, Freeman Hospital

Mr. Brent McGinty, Executive Director

Missouri Community Mental Health Centers Association

Mr. Erik Rassmussen, Program Manager - BJC Accountable Care Organization

Ms. Janet Grant, Regional Director for Aetna

Ms. Melissa Robinson, Executive Director of Black Health Care Coalition

Ms. Leslie Anderson, Director of Public Policy & Advocacy - SIL Services for Independent Living

Dr. Rolfe McCoy, Missouri Dental Association

Mr. Chuck Hollister, Missouri Psychological Association

Ms. Shannon Bagley, Home State Health

Mr. Cale Bradford, Pyramid Home Health Services

Ms. Denise Cross, Cornerstones of Care

Dr. Randy Jotte, Associate Professor - Washington University School of Medicine, Emergency Physician - Barnes Jewish Hospital

Mr. Brooks Miller, Jordan Valley Health Center

Mr. Danny O'Neill, Missouri Health Plus

Mr. Joe Pierle, Missouri Primary Care Association

Mr. Chad Moore, Children's Mercy Kansas City

### **Discussion Groups**

The group divided into small groups for 30 minutes of discussion on the topics below, and were invited to move from one group to another. Individuals who reported below have agreed to be "point persons" to collect and organize information and concerns offered by the network. At 5:15 the network reconvened to report on discussions.

**Community Education. Mary Turner.** Various target audiences were identified, including state legislators, County Commissioners, City officials, professional

educators and the news media including News-Leader. First priority is to plan the messaging. Requesting input from Network to develop bulleted talking points for priority areas. These will be distributed to the Network for use in contacting target audiences through letters and emails.

**Formal Referral System. Andrea Bishop.** Group would like to expand referral capacity to make it easier for families and clients to locate providers and services. Want to explore the Library's 411 list and provide information to NAMI to expand their online listing, scheduled to go live soon. Need to include online search terms likely to be used by someone in crisis. Printed booklets could be placed where potential users would see them: Laundromats, OACAC, One Door, probation and parole. One challenge is to keep printed lists updated.

**Affordable Housing. Joe Costello.** More housing is needed near core service areas. Many people who need housing do not qualify because of convictions. There is a large backlog of disability cases awaiting review. The application process for an owner to qualify under Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher program is too lengthy and complex for owners of a few properties. (Section 8 will pay the balance of a rent payment that exceeds 30% of a renter's monthly income.) Would like to connect with other agencies to learn how they manage. Would it be possible to offer pre-inspections by local officials to help property owners qualify? Section 8 is a good deal for owners due to guaranteed income.

**Reducing Documentation. Lisa Hall.** Major challenge is sharing information among agencies so people don't have to repeatedly provide the same extensive information. This can be overwhelming for people with mental illness. Many agencies still use paper, but perhaps they could use the same intake form. Barriers include differences in software and possible HIPAA concerns. Is it possible to get agencies to look at using one intake form? How much of the information requested is actually required and how much is just the way it has always been done? Recommended to contact Trent Simms (formerly with CPO, now at The Y YMCA) about Empower System.

**Affordable Medications. Melody Savely.** Medicaid is very generous with generic drugs and some pharmaceutical companies provide co-pay assistance for brand name meds, making them essentially free. Long-acting injectables have changed many people's lives for better – better control of symptoms leads to better compliance. It's not hard to get people enrolled. Recommends using bubble packs for those with a substance abuse disorder, which allow more effective monitoring. There are lots of affordable drugs and foundations that help, including \$4 generics. Burrell offers outpatient assistance with drug costs. People really need a case manager to help them manage this.

Chuck Hollister emphasized that independent practitioners provide the majority of the counseling services for people with mental illness. Clients need this to help manage their problems; drugs are not always appropriate or helpful, especially in children, and side effects are a big problem. Currently clients can get SSI and Medicaid for a year, then move to a combination of Medicaid and Medicare. He said Missouri Mental Health Advocacy has been very effective and advised signing up at <http://www.momha.org/> for notice of pending actions.

**Future Meetings – Always the Third Thursday**

Next meeting November 19, 3:30-5:30 at Lutheran Family & Children Services, 2130 N. Glenstone in Springfield. You may have an opportunity to record a 60-second video comment to the legislature about how Managed Care should be implemented for behavioral health services.

December 17 – tentative - Speakers from Tulsa. (This may be a different location and time.)

January 21 - TBA

Send comments and questions to [OzMHNetwork@gmail.com](mailto:OzMHNetwork@gmail.com)