

NASMHPD MEDICAL DIRECTORS' COUNCIL MEETING:

July 11, 2006

Meeting started at 8:30 a.m.

Present: Joe Parks (chair, MO); Alan Radke (vice chair, MN); Laura Nelson (AZ); Larry Miller (AR); Ken Marcus (CT); Rajiv Tandon (FL); George Parker (IN); Blaine Shaffer (NE); Mary Brunette (NH); Trish Singer (NM), Mike Lancaster (NC); Peggy Jewell (OK); Mary Diamond (PA); Richard Wagner (RI); Howard Burley (TN)

Topic: Minutes and Agenda

Discussion: The minutes of the May 22, 2006 meeting were approved. The agenda for today's meeting was shortened to allow the state medical directors to attend SAMHSA Administrator Charlie Curie's presentation.

Decision: Minutes approved as written. Agenda change approved.

Topic: Draft Technical Paper – Excess Mortality and Morbidity among Persons With Severe Mental Illness

Discussion: Three recommendations were made to the technical report: 1) the paper should have a wellness context to focus the reader on the importance of integration of mental health and physical health as an essential component to recovery; 2) the paper should link to the smoking technical report because of the impact of smoking on the health of a person with SMI; 3) the role of substance abuse should be emphasized.

Decision: The three aforementioned recommendations were approved by consensus. Drs. Svendsen and Singer will incorporate the recommendations in the paper's editing.

Topic: Draft Technical Paper – Smoking Policy and Practice in State Psychiatric Facilities

Discussion: Similar recommendations for this technical paper as for the mortality and morbidity paper: 1) the paper should have a wellness context and 2) the paper would be best written from a public health perspective. Likewise the NASMHPD position paper on smoking should have a wellness context with a public health perspective of emphasizing the significant increase in morbidity and mortality smoking causes to people with SMI.

Decision: These recommendations were approved by consensus. Drs. Jewell and Parks will take into account the recommendations in the paper's editing.

Topic: CATIE Issues Paper

Discussion: The paper must emphasize the specific findings of the CATIE study: 1) Antipsychotic dosing is key; 2) EPS avoidance without using anticholinergics is the key to the atypical antipsychotic benefits; 3) Different antipsychotic agents pose different challenges in balancing efficacy and tolerability; 4) Switching antipsychotics is risky and costly; 5) Clozapine is the gold standard in refractory psychotic illnesses and 6) Treatment should be individualized using sound clinical judgment. A non-technical one page executive summary and complimentary PowerPoint presentation were recommended.

Action: Drs. Tandon, Lieberman and Parks will draft the executive summary and develop the PowerPoint. The Medical Directors' Council member will have an opportunity to review the drafts and give input before the executive summary and PowerPoint are finalized.

Topic: Suicide Prevention Technical Report Meeting

Discussion: The meeting is planned for September 25 and 26 in Washington D.C. Dr. Radke will be the resulting paper senior editor. Drs. Diamond and Nelson volunteered to be Council representatives. A draft of the paper will be available at the APA IPS Council meeting in October.

Action: Dr. Radke and Parks will work with Mr. Roy Praschil to organize the technical report meeting.

Topic: Behavioral Health Treatment Standards (BHTS) Workgroup

Discussion: Dr. Parks reported on the BHTS Workgroup goal of agreeing on national standards for electronic health records. Mr. Ted Ludderman of NRI is involved in the discussion. A Council member is requested to represent the physician interests in electronic health record development. Dr. Parks has been the Council's representative but requested a volunteer who is actively involved in electronic health record development in his or her state.

Action: Dr. Radke volunteered to represent the Council as MN State Operated Services is developing an electronic health record based on the NetSmart AVATAR software.

Topic: Monthly Telephone Conferences

Discussion: Council members agreed that monthly telephone conferences would be a benefit allowing common issues, problems and concerns to be discussed with the possibility of adapting or adopting solutions other state have already developed or brainstorming ideas that may lead to solutions.

Action: Dr. Marcus will coordinate monthly Council telephone conferences.

Topic: List Serve

Discussion: The Council List Serve is not up-to-date. Every Council member is asked to review the Active Members Roster of NASMHPD Medical Directors' Council on www.nasmhpd.org and correct any errors his or her email address.

Topic: Proposals for Presentations at National Conferences

Discussion: Council members agreed that completed work of the Council should be presented at national meetings. Technical papers, issue papers, survey reports and conjoint Council/Commissioner reports should be formatted and submitted to either the APA IPS and/or the AACP Winter Meeting as these are forums for the public mental health systems to gather and share knowledge.

Action: Council members who are leads or representatives of the Council in the aforementioned initiatives are asked to submit presentation proposals to the APA IPS and AACP Winter Meeting as appropriate.

Topic: Opportunities to Improve Communications

Discussion: Following a general discussion of how effective medical directors have been in communicating with the commissioners through the joint meeting of the technical papers the two following opportunities were identified.

1) The technical papers are useful as resource documents but are not adequate as communication tools at a commissioner level. In addition to the current technical paper format a one-page set of talking points should be provided in two separate PowerPoint sets: a full set of up to 50 slides designed to support a 45 minute presentation, and a brief set of up to approximately six slides to be used with a one-page talking points.

Action: -editors and writers for technical papers currently in development will include the two power points in the one-page talking point in their work
-talking points and power points should be included on web page for general usage

-Doctors Parks and Radke will discuss options for developing the talking points and power points for prior papers with Bob Glover

2) In reviewing the presentations to the Commissioner it was thought that too much information had been provided in too little a time.

Action: Dr. Parks will ask Bob Glover to consider scheduling medical directors for a half-day annually with commissioners

Meeting ended at 9:35 a.m.