

Idaho IDIQ Technical Assistance Report

Type of Assistance Requested

NAMI Idaho requested technical assistance from NAMI to hold and facilitate two (2) workshop presentations focusing on the topic of mental health and substance abuse service regionalization.

Expected Outcomes

The expected outcomes of these workshops were:

- Idaho Mental Health/Substance Abuse Workgroup attendees will better understand various system restructuring approaches used in other states over the last ten (10) years along with the potential benefits and possible drawbacks of these efforts.
- Program Manager-Adult Mental Health, Division of Family and Community Services for Idaho DWH, and his staff will better understand various system restructuring approaches used in other states including the potential benefits and drawbacks of these efforts.
- Consumers of service, their families, and concerned citizens (advocates) will better understand various system restructuring approaches used in other states including the potential benefits and drawbacks of these efforts.
- System restructuring planning and plans will include input from informed advocates.

Workshop Summaries

Two System Change Workshops were held on March 4, 2004 in Boise, Idaho. The first Workshop was held from 9:00 am to 11:30 am with the Idaho Mental Health/Substance Abuse Workgroup. Present were six committee members and fourteen other stakeholder at the event. Attendees included: Ray Millar, Program Manager-Adult Mental Health; Tony Poinelli, Director of Idaho Association of County Govts.; Kathie Garrett, State Representative; Theresa DeWolfe, Social Services Director; Carol Terry, representing the Idaho Hospital Association; Paul Carol, representing Idaho Juvenile Corrections; Diane Thomas, County Commissioner; Lee Woodland, NAMI ID Executive Director; and, Dr. Martha Tanner, Advocate; among others.

The second Workshop with the Adult Mental Health staff and Medicaid staff began at 1:05 pm and ended at 3:15 pm. Present were nine state employees from various departments affected by mental health systems change and nine other stakeholders at the event. Attendees included: Ray Millar, Program Manager-Adult Mental Health; Ken Diebert, Director Family & Community Services Division; two Medicaid reimbursement specialists; two regional service center representatives participating via telephone conference call; Lee Woodland, NAMI ID Executive Director; and, Dr. Martha Tanner, Advocate; among others.

Presentations on system reorganization and facilitated discussions, at both Workshops were provided by NAMI's Terry Russell and Joel Miller. Mr Russell is currently Executive Director of NAMI Ohio and past director of a regional service entity with over 30 years of experience in mental health systems change. Mr. Miller is presently the acting Director of NAMI's Public Policy Institute and an expert in public mental health systems and Medicaid policy development. Mr. Russell provided a detailed overview of the experiences of other states that have implemented similar service regionalization projects. Then Mr. Miller presented information on the status of the Medicaid Program across the country presently. Three states were identified as having made similar regionalization efforts in the

Idaho IDIQ Technical Assistance Report

past. Those states are New Hampshire, Kentucky, and Indiana. The experiences of eight other states that have tried various types of system re-organization were also shared (both orally and in writing).

Materials distributed and discussed are attached.

The objective of exploring what has been gleaned by the experiences of other states, in order that Idaho may benefit from their experiences was attained and significant progress was made in developing a common goal among the participants for possible changes in the Medicaid and Mental Health Systems in Idaho.

Thirty-eight participants were present at one or both Workshops, but the level of community and state officials involved and the solid out comes from the events are far more impressive than just the numbers attending.

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Organization Making Report

NAMI National

Joel Miller, acting Director NAMI Public Policy Institute

Warren Karmol, NAMI Region V Director

NAMI Idaho

Lee Woodland, Executive Director