Community Advisory Council Minutes

July 21, 2015 at 12:00 p.m.
Family Health
Multnomah County

Members Present: Jan Tesch, Nicholas Ocon, Royal Harris, Martha Spiers, Jessica Coshatt, Zareck O'Neill, Leticia Sainz, and Chom Sou.

Members Absent: Neal Rotman**,** Jasmine Hernandez

Staff Present: Brett Hamilton, Meg Pitman, Michelle Soles, Cindy Becker

Guests/Other: Dustin Zimmerman with the Oregon Health Authority (OHA); Amanda Saul, Mari Matsumoto with Enterprise Community Partners Inc. and Fran Weick, with Human Solutions

12:15pm Welcome and Introductions: Jan Tesch called the meeting to order. Everyone in attendance introduced themselves.

12:20pm Approval of minutes: Motion by Tesch to approve the minutes from the June 16, 2015 meeting

Motion carried.

Community Health Improvement Plan Update: Meg Pitman gave an update on the health improvement plan (CHIP). Pitman is attending listening sessions with young people in the community on a regular basis. She stated that these listening sessions allow young people to talk to FamilyCare staff directly. There have been several listening sessions with community partners including the Boys and Girls Club and SMYRC: the Sexual & Gender Minority Youth Resource Center. There will be at least one listening session in each county served by FamilyCare. Brett Hamilton stated some young people don't have guardians to navigate the healthcare system for them, so we need to step in to educate and guide them.

Laticia Sainz suggested that a brochure be created specifically for children and young adults. The guide would be basic; an easy to read document about healthcare, benefits, and include a list of providers who are trained to meet the needs of young people.

Pitman stated there's a focus on developing a plan to connect with members of FamilyCare who are not accessing medical/health services. Some people have health insurance and are

not "using it". The group agreed that this could be occurring for a number of reasons. Sometimes members haven't provided their current address or phone number, as a result they may not receive an approval letter or health insurance ID cards. The goal is to provide more outreach; so members know when they have insurance, what plan they're enrolled in and how to access services.

Community Advisory Council policy: Hamilton led a discussion about CAC policies. Hamilton said current policy states people commit to serving on the council for one year and then have the option of renewing for a second year. Hamilton explained that is short amount of time once you consider that it can take up to one year to onboard a new member. Hamilton also explained that because of the shorten terms he is constantly recruiting new members, which takes a great deal of time. Hamilton suggested changing the commitment to two years with an option for a third year.

However, some members shared their concern that two years is a large amount of time for some people to commit if there health or living situation is unstable.

The Council discussed having more flexibility to meet different people needs. The Council discussed changing the policy and allowing youth members to be a part of the council for six months. Zareck O'Neill shared that to a youth who may not know where they are going to school and/or trying to find work six months is a significant commitment.

The Council ended the conservation acknowledging the most important issue was making participation easy and reinforcing the importance sharing their voice.

Housing and Health: Amanda Saul and Fran Weick gave a presentation on how important affordable housing is and the link between stable housing and health.

Saul gave an overview of Enterprise Community Partners Inc. This company supports affordable housing organizations and invests in projects by providing loans and grants. Affordable housing owners and developers include Catholic Charities, Cascadia Behavioral Health and Central City Concern. Amanda said owners of affordable housing often provide resident services including a full time staff who live on site and information and referral services.

Weick is employed with Human Solutions. Human Solutions is an agency that helps people in Oregon with their basic needs, including finding a job, permanent housing and rental and utility assistance. Weick stated that the agency typically serves families with children and there is a great need for services, her office often gets 500 calls a month.

Weick noted that stable housing helps provide comfort, and safety. She explained that many of the people who go to Human Solutions for help often earn minimum wage; having access to affordable housing helps make sure families can live in one area for the long term, and as a result children can stay at the same school for an entire school year and beyond.

Fran stated that Human Solutions is often unable to find housing for people who have recently been released from jail/prison. Tesch asked why people who have been

incarcerated can't get help with housing thru Human Solutions. Weick said because their properties are often rented to families with small children, however they can help this population find work. Weick explained that those who have been incarcerated are often referred to Bud Clark Commons (apartments for those with low or no income and home to many single adults).

Weick also talked about two affordable housing units on the east side of Multnomah county, one is near 188th and Burnside; across the street from that is a new development, Rosewood Plaza.

FamilyCare web site: Tesch asked the council members to comment on the FamilyCare website. Sainz stated that the language contained on the web site could be more clear and suggested acronyms be used less. Sainz gave an example, stating that most people don't know that CCO stands for Coordinated Care Organization or what a CCO is. Royal Harris stated that messaging and information provided by FamilyCare should be consistent. Tesch thanked everyone for their input.

Meeting adjourned at 2:00 pm

Next meeting: September 15th, 2015 at Momentum Alliance (Multnomah County)