

Community Services Department
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March 9, 2009

TO: Dee F. Bruemmer

FROM: Lori A. Elam

RE: MH/DD Services Three Year Strategic Plan FY10-FY12

Attached is the proposed Strategic Plan for MH/DD Services for FY10-FY12. The MH/DD Advisory Committee met to discuss unmet needs and the development of a new strategic plan. The committee developed a needs assessment as required and then created a new strategic plan based on the community needs.

A new strategic plan is required every three years by the Iowa Department of Human Services and it provides goals for the system for the next three years, FY10, FY11, and FY12. It also contains information on the covered services and the provider network.

PRIORITIZED LIST OF UNMET NEEDS IN THE CURRENT SYSTEM:

1. Funding for services
2. Additional number of MR Waiver slots
3. SCL and support services for mentally ill (hourly and 24 hour)
4. Mental Health Court
5. Workshop availability
6. Equitable Medicaid Reimbursement
7. New waiver services for developmentally disabled
8. Staff shortages/Retention/Training/Adequate Pay
9. Alternative day programming options
10. Expanded services to all waivers
11. Services to aging population
12. Transportation
13. New waiver/services for autism
14. Additional housing services/assistance (affordable, accessible)
15. Visiting nurse services (medication management)
16. Public awareness and education
17. Services for individuals with severe behaviors

In summary, the unmet needs were grouped into the categories below.

I. Funding/Utilization/Resources

Appropriate levels of funding are necessary to support current services for individuals with mental illness, mental retardation and developmental disabilities. It is recommended that Scott County continue to monitor the utilization of services and trends on a quarterly basis to ensure appropriate services are being provided in the most cost effective manner. Scott County currently has a significant waiting list and would like to address it, but additional funding would be needed on an ongoing basis. The Iowa Legislature needs to be educated in terms of the number of people needing services, the types and costs of services in the state, and the gaps in services.

II. Advocacy

There are many ideas and groups with ideas on how to reform the current MH/DD system. It is recommended that Scott County staff, providers, families and consumers monitor these ideas and participate in the discussions regarding reform. Legislative bills and initiatives need to be followed closely as they could have dramatic impacts on our community. The committee recommends that Scott County providers, families and consumers play a role in the legislative process. Increasing advocacy and educating Legislators is very important. Advocating for additional services at the federal and state level is vital to ensure all people with disabilities have their needs met. It is recommended that Scott County host some events related to advocacy.

Scott County is supportive of the providers' concerns regarding the low Medicaid reimbursement rates and the impacts. Over the years, MH/DD services have grown considerably creating staffing challenges for agencies. Scott County provides inflationary increases to authorized agencies when the budget allows. Without adequate staffing, agencies have a difficult time fulfilling all the requested service hours. Staff training, pay rates and retention are all very important factors in meeting the needs of the individuals. It is difficult to find good staff and retain them. Their jobs are very difficult and demanding at times.

III. New and Alternative Services for Persons with Mental Illness

New, additional services are needed to effectively meet the needs of individuals with mental illness. Scott County is applying for a federal grant to expand the current jail diversion services and implement a mental health court. This will reduce the number of people with mental illness in jail and stabilize them in the community with support services. Additional Habilitation services such as supported community living and supportive services are recommended for individuals with mental illness. New and additional programming would provide choice, help empower individuals, and reduce isolation.

IV. Additional Services/Programming Choices

New, additional program choices are recommended to effectively meet the needs of individuals with disabilities. Additional day programming options are recommended to help address the needs of individuals who don't have a desire to work. There will be discussions with providers about exploring/expanding the services for aging individuals with disabilities. New and additional programming would provide choice and help empower individuals. Additional services for individuals with severe behaviors are also recommended. These individuals would

benefit from returning to their home communities, but need intense services to be successful. New/expanded transportation options are recommended as the current transportation system often hinders or prevents individuals from securing employment and/or participating in recreational activities.

FY10-FY12 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:

The recommended goals (listed in order of priority) are as follows:

1. Scott County Community Services Department will review MH/DD service utilization and financial data in order to improve/enhance services.

Action steps: -Report data/trends on a quarterly basis to Board of Supervisors and to the MH/DD Advisory Committee
-Reduce/eliminate the current waiting list by five each year
-Open additional MR Waiver slots (review twice a year)
-Monitor MFP Initiative for financial impacts
-Increase workshop availability

Target Dates: Annually- October 2009
October 2010
October 2011
Quarterly- Fiscal Year Quarters

Projected costs: FY10- \$1.6 million
FY11- \$1.8 million
FY12- \$2.1 million

2. Scott County will continuously monitor/maintain awareness of changes that may effect MH/DD system at the state and federal level.

Action steps: -Advocate for appropriate levels of funding every session
-Monitor/review legislative issues, initiatives and their impacts on MH/DD system, reporting to Board of Supervisors, MH/DD Advisory Committee and community
-Increase advocacy in Scott County by hosting a training with ID Action for consumers, providers and families
-Advocate for waiver services expansion and development of new waivers- autism, developmental disabilities
-Advocate for equitable Medicaid reimbursement
-Monitor/review staff shortages/training needs/adequate pay issues with local providers

Target Dates: Annually

Projected costs: FY10- \$135,000
FY11 and FY12- To be determined

3. Scott County will continuously explore alternative/new services to person with mental illness.

Action steps: -Secure federal funding and implement Mental Health Court
-Explore/expand SCL and supportive services with local providers
-Explore/develop new services for visiting nurse and medication management

Target Dates: Annually- October 2009
October 2010
October 2011

Projected costs: FY10- \$500,000
FY11 and FY12- To be determined

4. Scott County will continuously explore alternative services with local providers to address a variety of consumer needs.

Action Steps: -Explore/develop alternative day programming options
-Explore/expand services for the aging population
-Explore/develop services for consumers with severe behaviors
-Explore/develop new transportation services
-Explore/expand housing services/options
-Explore/expand socialization opportunities and the utilization of volunteer groups

Target Dates: Annually- June 2009
June 2010
June 2011

Projected costs: FY10- \$2.5 million
FY11 and FY12- To be determined

It is very important to note that the implementation of any objective in this plan with a projected cost to the county is solely contingent on adequate funding from the state. The MH/DD Advisory Committee recommends the new goals to the Board of Supervisors for adoption as a part of the Scott County Management Plan for Mental Health and Developmental Disability Services Three Year Strategic Plan, FY10-FY12.

I will be available to discuss with the Board the goals in the proposed plan during the Committee of the Whole and at the scheduled public hearing to provide any additional information that may be requested.