



**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH  
PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

July 28, 2011  
3:30 – 5:00 PM

**Members Present:** Matt Rosen, Vivian Smith, Joyce Drumming

**Absent:** Senora Simpson, Rosa Hamlett, Leslie Bell-Davis, Angela Frank, Shannon Hall, Chasel Smith, Kathrin Wright, Audrey Reed Brown, Deborah Bear, Nan Roman, Byron Stith, Chet Gray, Sue Marshall, Mary Jean DiPietro, Jennifer Lav, Yvonne Z. Smith, Richard Flintrop, Effie Smith

**Staff Present:** Steve Baron, Barbara Bazron, Rick Parr

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**I. Call to Order – Steve Baron**

The meeting was called to order by Steve Baron in Ms. Simpson absence. The recent death of Helen Bergman, a founder of Community Connections, a community based mental health provider, was discussed. Mr. Parr was introduced to the members.

**II. Review/Approval of Minutes of October**

The minutes of May 26, 2011 were reviewed and approved.

**III. Director's Report**

**Relocation** – As previously reported, the office lease for the Mental Health Authority ends in November and the plan is to relocate to RMB building at Saint Elizabeths Hospital. However, the future of RMB is tied to development plans on the campus. Meanwhile, the Mental Health Authority will move 609 H Street, N.E. in September.

**Dixon Case Update** – The Court Monitor has now moved 14 of the 19 Exit Criteria to inactive status. The District's motion to vacate the court order is still pending.

**FY 12 Budget** – \$3.5 million was added to the budget to support *Dixon* related activities: \$1.2 million for 100 new housing vouchers; \$1.3 million for children and youth services with the Child and Family Services Agency, and \$1 million for community based mental health services. DMH also is seeking to identify new revenues. Additional funds would be used to expand wrap-around services and supported employment.

**Mental Health Information Act** – On behalf of DMH, Mayor Gray transmitted a bill to the Council of the District of Columbia that would allow greater communication between mental health and healthcare providers [to strengthen coordinated treatment for better outcomes]. The bill was referred to the Committee on Health, chaired by Councilmember David Catania.

**Child Community Service Review** –This year, the child score improved from 49 to 58 with some providers performing extremely well.

**Saint Elizabeths Hospital Census** – the census is down 14% from last July —from 318 to 272 patients.

**Peer Specialist Certification training** – Ten of the initial 12 participants have completed the class work and are now in field internships. The hope is that they will be hired by providers once certification is achieved.

**System Redesign** – The system redesign under consideration include a benefit package in the Mental Health Rehabilitation Services program, free-standing clinics, and enhanced certification for cultural incompetence.

#### **IV. Staff Report**

**Collaboration with the Department of Disability Services** – Deputy Director Dr. Barbara Bazron reported that work is continuing on how to best support those with co-occurring disorders, including better case coordination for people leaving Saint Elizabeths, training for DDS staff, and developing a certificate program for behavior health. In addition, she is now a part of the Interagency Committee to look at integrated services.

V. **Old Business:** None

VI. **New Business:** None

VII. **Adjournment:** The next meeting date is September 22, 2011.