

Service Area 5 - Jacksonville
5920 Arlington Expressway, Jacksonville, FL
MP Council
Minutes
February 7, 2006 1pm

Adult Council

MEMBERS PRESENT:

David Espiritu – Chair
Shelby Simmons – Vice Chair
Dr. Darrell Craig
Stephen Jones
Elaine Ewen
Ernst Mueller

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Gordon Bass

GUESTS:

Julia Dorsey –
DCF/NEFSH

SAC

Not Present

STAFF

Bryan Morgan

Open Session

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by David Espiritu at 1pm.

II. Meeting

Introductions were made by all council members, Mr. Bryan Morgan of LAC staff and Mrs. Julia Dorsey.

Agenda was reviewed and approved with a slight alteration of order of new business to accommodate guest, Mrs. Dorsey. It was also amended to add a discussion of meeting times to the agenda.

Minutes from the last meeting in November of 2005 were reviewed and approved, signed by the Chair, Mr. Espiritu.

New Business:

Baker Act Hearings, St. Johns County: Mrs. Dorsey, Care Coordinator for DCF and NEFSH (Northeast Florida State Hospital) introduced her position to the council. Mrs. Dorsey reviewed her observations of the process of hearings pertaining to Baker Act individuals. Mr. Espiritu suggested that a council member or members, make an attempt to contact the clerk at the hospital to make arrangements to attend hearings. It was reminded that courts need to make correct assessments of what is best for

a patient. A patient may need a solution other than being committed to a mental health department. It was shared that in hearings observed by Mrs. Dorsey, the defenders are not totally vested in the defense of the patient. Last minute hearings, no notification to defenders or advocates allow for misdirected patients with violated rights. Mrs. Ewen and Mr. Jones had volunteered to make an attempt at contacting those responsible for hearing notifications and introduce themselves. It was suggested that they contact Mrs. Iris Hall, Clerk of County Circuit Court. Mrs. Dorsey was thanked for her shared information and invited back to the council meetings.

Records Access: Mr. Espiritu reviewed that HIPPA compliancy and LAC Mental Health have statutes that allow MH access to information. It is uncertain as to how facilities and providers will respond to MH requests for information, it was suggested that definition of authorized recipient be made for LAC benefit. Mr. Mueller had offered research into the HIPPA/LAC issue for possible solutions. Mr. Espiritu also made available statutes where it is written LAC, MH has access to individuals' records.

Sunshine Law Compliance: Mr. Espiritu requested information from Mr. Morgan regarding the posting of council meetings to be in compliance with the Sunshine Law. Mr. Morgan suggested online postings, local newspapers and a posting of the calendar in the DCF office for public display.

Training: Mr. Espiritu asked to move planned training to the next meeting.

Meeting Times: It was suggested by Mr. Espiritu that a possible day and time change would make meeting attendance easier for all members. Mr. Morgan reminded the council that the morning meetings for the MP council will remain on the set Tuesday of the month. There is also the issue of afterhours and weekend meetings that cannot be attended by LAC staff and the matter of commute for Mr. Morgan. It was decided to keep the 1pm time on set Tuesdays for the MH meeting as long as notice was made in advance of any changes or updates.

III. Closed Session:

IV. Adjourn

The Council had no further business and called the meeting adjourned at 2:45 PM.

Submitted By:

Bryan Morgan

03-14-06

Approved By:

David Espiritu, Chair