

Mental Health Strike Team Minutes

August 31, 2009

In Attendance: Kerry Dennis, Barbara Kopp, Miriam Lacher, Kristie Skoglund

Previous minutes were approved.

1. *Assessment Tool* – Miriam is going to review the DASS tool again that was provided by Kerry. The validity and reliability scoring seemed too cumbersome, but Miriam will take another look.
2. *Ethics & Pandemics Workshop* – The workshop has been scheduled for December 11th at Sarasota Memorial Hospital Auditorium with 9:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. for registration and a 10:00 a.m. to noon presentation. Professor Gerald Strand from Argosy University will lead the panel discussion as well as Patty Reynolds and Davis Tornabene from SMH. Per Miriam, Professor Strand would like a medical doctor to be included on the panel, and he has invited Dr. Shirley Jankelevich to participate as well. The program will be open to everyone with CEUs available for a small charge. The hospital will promote the event on their intranet as well as internet site, but Miriam emphasized it is the strike team's responsibility to distribute the information regarding the seminar to as many people as possible. The group discussed providing it to the COAD members as well as their own agency contact lists. Kerry stated it was very important that Senior Friendship Center and their customers also be aware of the program. Barb offered to forward any information to Jane Icely, Vice President of Healthy Aging Services at SFC.
3. *Project Hope* – At the last COAD meeting in the Emergency Operations Center (EOC), Kerry asked Anne Miller about Project Hope. He was told the request would need to be entered into EISMAX from the Health and Human Services Operations Center as a request to ESF 7, who would then enter it into the Constellation system that goes to the state. Anne stated that just because a request is made to the state doesn't mean you will get it. The strike team would like more clarification on when to enter this into the system, so Barb will speak with Pauline Tracy and report back at the next meeting.
4. *Emergency Planning for Special Needs Communities* – Flyers were distributed regarding a training being presented by the West Virginia University which will be held on October 8th from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and October 9th from 9 a.m. to noon. "The purpose of the course is to address the need to incorporate special needs considerations into the development of emergency plans, inclusive sheltering and mass care provisions for this population, as well as identifying the significance of a functional approach in emergency planning for special needs communities." Everyone was asked to pass the flyer along to someone who may be interested in attending. There are many openings available.
5. *Open* – Discussion ensued regarding physically getting the assessment tool into the hands of the mental health professional, whether or not Red Cross already had a tool, should the MRC be the distributor, what are Special Needs Shelters (SpNS) doing, and the process to Baker Act someone. It was suggested that Susan Goffard (MRC), Inaki Rezola (Red Cross), Rik Jimison (Ambitran contract), and Chris Griffith (SpNS) be invited to the next meeting (potentially scheduled for September 21st) to establish a process.