

**MENTAL HEALTH/SUBSTANCE ABUSE STRIKE TEAM
MEETING MINUTES**

January 9, 2012 3:30 PM, 2200 Ringling Blvd., #2063

In attendance: Kevin Chinault, Kerry Dennis, Cindy Gourley, Sandra Hanna, Lynette Herbert, Barbara Kopp, Miriam Lacher, Elaine Levesque, Kristie Skogland

Absent: Benjamin Kunkel, Louise Morgan, Inaki Rezola

Update of Priorities

The consensus of the team was to keep the priorities as written on the COAD website.

Update of Contact List/Community Resources

The Team reviewed the contact list and the Community Resources list, and changes were made as needed. Miriam Lacher welcomed possible new leadership of the group. The Team would like her to continue as Strike Team Leader.

Joint Meeting

Barb Kopp reported that at the most recent Joint Meeting of the Elder and DD Strike Teams, Ed McCrane requested a resource list from all of the Strike Teams. Additionally, he requested that the Teams assemble a "menu of potential issues" or scenarios in the event of a disaster, listing the main contact person for assistance/resolution.

The MHSA Strike Team discussed the following scenarios:

What if a disaster strikes and people do not have their needed medications?

The first line of defense should be the person's regular provider. The Health Department may be an essential link. The last line should be the ER.

What if Substance Abuse clients are experiencing withdrawal?

In the event of disaster, SA clients that do not have access have the potential for withdrawal and for going into detox. This is physically dangerous. In the event that First Step evacuates its Addictions Receiving Facility/Detox Unit (ARF) clients to an evacuation shelter, no admissions to the ARF will be feasible. If the ARF does not evacuate during a disaster, admission screenings will be conducted per protocol and be based on bed and staff availability.

What if a person experiences a psychotic break in a shelter?

All Red Cross shelters have a law enforcement officer on site. They should be trained to isolate and assist. Person would be transported to Bayside or Coastal as soon as possible. (Bayside moves to Main House when evacuated. Coastal, located in a flood zone, would also be required to evacuate to Bayside if type of disaster makes necessary.)

What if MHSA clients are evacuated to Sarasota County from surrounding areas?

Bayside, Coastal, and First Step could be providers.

What if person with MHSA issues/needs is out in the community during and post-disaster?

There is currently no mobile unit for support from Bayside, Coastal, or First Step. Ambitrans would need to bring the person to these facilities. Providing service to the clients of these facilities would remain the first priority, however.

MHSA/COAD Information Cards:

Mental Health and Substance Abuse/COAD information business cards and rack cards were distributed. The business cards are also now available in Spanish. We are still waiting on Spanish translation for the rack cards.

COAD Meeting

Miriam Lacher will not be attending the next COAD meeting on Thursday, January 12, 2012. Sarasota County Government staff will provide the report.

2012 Meeting Dates

2012 MHSA meetings will be held on Monday(s), **April 9**, June 11, July 9, August 13, September 10, October 8, and November 12, 2012. All meetings will be held at 3:30 PM in Room 2063 of the Sarasota County Health and Human Services building.

Other Business

In past years, the MHSA Strike Team has sponsored one or two seminars throughout the year on relevant topics. The group was asked to think about potential topics for the future.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:15 PM.