

# UWIN Work Group Minutes

## Executive Board

Meeting Date: October 18, 2004

Facilitator: Michael Deily

Minute Recorder: Tamara Keene

Attendees: Nonie Lancaster, Dave Dangerfield, Fraser Nielson, Cathy Chambless, Michael Deily, Mandee Buckley, Tamara Keene, Sara McCormick, and Catherine Carter

### Next Meeting Date and Location

Next meeting: TBA

### Topic and Summary of Discussion

#### Research Results from Valley Mental Health EPAS Project (slide show by Catherine Carter)

- 1- Demographics
  - a. 50% Female
  - b. Educations, Highest grade completed
    - i. 14% 7<sup>th</sup> grade
    - ii. 14% 9<sup>th</sup> grade
    - iii. 29% 12<sup>th</sup> grade
    - iv. 43% Post High School
  - c. 100% not Hispanic
  - d. 90% white
  - e. 2.1 hours of EPAS per day (averaged over 5 days)
  - f. Average years in mental health services was 15.5 years
  - g. Cost of services for an average about 212 days
    - i. 10% decrease over all services

## Topic and Summary of Discussion

1. Decreased
  - a. Case management
  - b. Consultation
  - c. Counseling
  - d. Day treatment
  - e. Skills development services
  
2. Increased
  - a. Residential Treatment
  - b. Residential Support
  - c. Vocational Services
  - d. Medication Management

### Discussion on Slides:

- 1- There was an expectation that services would be high at the beginning and taper off as client became more stable.
  - a. Which services become incorporated into the clients' program?
  
- 2- Med-management data
- 3- What types of jobs did the clients have
  - a. Evaluation team is working on more details of this data
  
- 4- The current clients for the VHM Project will transition over to regular EPAS program by the end of December
  - a. Plans will be re-done
  - b. Clients will be met individually
  - c. Need to get hours of services needed will need to be re-approved
  
- 5- What are reasons people are denied for State EPAS services
  - a. Many are denied because they are already receive personal assistance
    - i. Not including the TBI Waiver or the Tech Assistance Waiver
  - b. Not working enough hours, or not working
  - c. Not a high enough need for services

## Topic and Summary of Discussion

- 6- Consumer preparation, and EPAS readiness for the consumer
  - a. Need some help to learn about a consumer driven service management
  - b. Consider fee-for service for the mental health population
    - i. Assist with training and education
    - ii. Help the client and personal assistants understand what are needed and allowed
    - iii. At no time is the employer of EPAS clients are brought into the plan, or assisted
  
- 7- Why do clients have a hard time finding jobs
  - a. No specific data
    - i. Economy
    - ii. Illness conditions
  
- 8- What type of jobs do traditional EPAS people have?
  - a. Community based and competitive
  
- 9- How is the traditional EPAS marketed?
  - a. Training to the consumers and parents
    - i. Word of mouth
    - ii. Targeting trainings
      - 1. DSPD Waiting list

### Traditional EPAS

- 1- Expanding case load and sustainability
  - a. Need to find assistance for growing case load
  - b. Need to find a way to meet sustainability for position at the end of the work ability project.

### BPAO Updates

- 1- 63 individuals referred in July
- 2- Over 1100 people currently being served statewide
  - a. This program is overwhelmed

## Topic and Summary of Discussion

- 3- 23 communities in the seven day social security certification program
  - a. Participants are from different locals across the state
  - b. Came from DSPD, Valley Services, State Providers participated
- 4- Booking out at 4-6 weeks for appointments
- 5- Utah Issues had Ester Medina presented and some things came from that.
  - a. Are providers tied to their provider organizations?
    - i. To some extent, but if they can still be referred to the state-wide benefits planners
- 6- There aren't 1000 people on the Work Incentive Program---why the difference?
  - a. We were not able to get SSA information and had to rely on consumer report
    - i. 67% were self reported to be getting on MWI
- 7- Is there a plan of continuing training of the BPAO specialists?
  - a. There is a position that currently provides on-going training and support statewide
  - b. Professional people come in to train on specific issues
  - c. Evaluation of cost of holding these trainings
- 8- Only the statewide

### Brain Injury Conference and EPAS

- 1- There was a panel and one of the EPAS clients participated on this panel
  - a. He spoke about how he was able to maintain his job

### Evaluation Satisfaction Survey Update

- 1- Goal was to see if the BPAO program
  - a. Meeting the needs of consumers
  - b. Do consumers feel like they are more informed
  - c. Has their been a change of consumers employment status

## Topic and Summary of Discussion

- 2- 173 respondents
  - a. 26% only received problem solving type of assistance
  - b. 54% received a written benefits analysis
  - c. The remainder received more complex benefits planning or benefits management
  
- 3- Changes people would make to the BPAO service
  - a. Would like to have more access
  - b. Would like to have more one-on-one time
  
- 4- Employment observations
  - a. People like the BPAO services, but the influence to go back to work in not hugely impacted
  - b. People are fearful to go back to work
    - i. Could be over whelming
    - ii. Fear of losing benefits, or working harming their current quality of life
    - iii. May not be interested in returning to working or working more

### MWI Update

- 1- No substantial increase over the last few months

### 1 for 2 Demonstration (handout)

- 1- Reimbursement contract from SSA rather than a competitive grant.
- 2- Work Ability is hopeful that this contract will start within the month.
- 3- Utah was chosen for a few reasons
  - a. Strong environment for support
  - b. Good reputation nationally
  
- 4- This will be an experimental design
- 5- Our focus in on implementation so the national pilot will have a better understanding of how to implement the larger pilot.
- 6- Looking at a variety of employment support programs
- 7- Communication will be key among organizations and consumers

- a. Inter-agencies agreements will be gathered

## Topic and Summary of Discussion

- 8- Overview
    - a. Collect sample population
    - b. Verify title 2 status
    - c. Divine applicants into groups regionally
    - d. Mail letters, informed consent forms, and surveys
    - e. Wait for a response from applicant, and follow up
    - f. Random assignment, after applicant response
      - i. May get some unhappy people
      - ii. None will be harmed, or worse off
      - iii. Third party will make random assignment, not presenter.
        - 1. Need to have well written material, looked out by attorneys perhaps, for absolute clarity.
        - 2. Trying to minimizing the “gaming of the system”
          - a. Fraser will ask around to other involved states for their legal wording
            - i. Wisconsin
  - g. Enrollment targets
    - i. 3800 will be eligible
    - ii. We are targeting 500
      - 1. not a said required number, but SSA would like a good sampling
  - h. The control group will be the hardest to look at and evaluate because they have the least motivation to stay in touch.
  - i. Phase out
    - i. Benefit off-set for 5 years, and is not permanent
      - 1. Originally was forever, but was not passed
- 9- Strengths and Weaknesses
  - a. Many ways to get in touch with people
  - b. BPAO program is already in place
  - c. Staggered enrollment will be hard
  - d. Inter-Agency agreement will be difficult
  - e. Dealing with control group

## Topic and Summary of Discussion

- 10- Who's behind the implementation:
  - a. UofU will be implementation
  - b. USU will be the evaluation experts
  - c. Cathy is project director
  - d. UWIN Staff will assist in various roles

### MIG2 Scope of Work

- 1- Objectives:
  - a. Work on maintaining BPAO systems
  - b. Work on maintaining EPAS systems
  - c. Work with the Governor's Committee on Employment with People with Disabilities
    - i. Works with employers to discuss the issues on hiring people with disabilities
    - ii. Focusing on medium to small businesses
    - iii. Continue on the Work Ability Brand, and a way to communicate with employers
- 2- Working with DWS and their labor management technology
  - a. A website about careers and training opportunities that are available
  - b. Field testing these tools
    - i. Setting up kiosks in high schools and higher education scenes to see if these tools are useful to people with disabilities.
    - ii. We want to ensure that these tools are available
    - iii. Focus is on youth and transition
- 3- Still working on the budget, and how to spend the money
- 4- Transitioning Work Ability from Heath to better focus on the employment aspects, rather than the medication support
  - a. 4 way tie in with DWS, USOR, Health, and USOE

**Action Steps**

<i>Action Item</i>	<i>Responsible</i>	<i>Target Date</i>
See how many people on the CAP program have been turned down for services by VR in relation to transition aged consumers.	Fraser Nielson	Next Agenda
Consider publishing an article in a mental health journal for more national awareness of the mental health employment support. Also consider national/local conference.	Catherine Carter	December 31, 2004
Get a copy of who has been trained and where they are located and who they serve for the BPAO project.	Kathy Daley	Next Meeting