

**VSH Futures Project  
Secure Residential Work Group**

**November 15, 2006      9:00 -- 11:00**

**Minutes**

NEXT MEETING:    January 10, 2007      9:00 – 11:00 – Dr. Simpatico’s office, VSH

Present: Michael Hartman, WCMHS; Paul Landerl, HCHS; Anne Jerman, VSH;  
Tom Simpatico, UVM/FAHC/VSH; David Gallagher; Jessica Oski, VDH/DMH;  
Judy Rosenstreich, VDH/DMH.

**FUTURES UPDATE**

Judy reported that the Department of Banking, Insurance, Securities and Health Care Administration (BISHCA) has ruled the State’s application for a conceptual certificate of need complete, a significant step forward in the regulatory process. The Public Oversight Commission (POC) will review the application on December 13, inviting comment from interested parties. The State will present its application to the POC in support of the core policy recommendations of the Futures Advisory Committee and the Department of Health/Division of Mental Health. BISHCA Commissioner John Crowley will consider the recommendation of the POC and rule on the issue of granting the State a conceptual CON. A *conceptual* CON would allow the State to further develop its plan and to submit an application for a CON.

The Advisory Committee will meet November 20 to provide input for the Futures Team presentation to the POC in support of the Advisory’s policy recommendations on a new, primary inpatient psychiatric program on Fletcher Allen’s Burlington campus. There also will be an informational presentation on Act 114 to develop greater understanding of its scope and operation.

In October, the Advisory Committee considered reports from two work groups, housing and crisis beds, and made recommendations to Secretary Cindy LaWare. In response, DMH staff is costing out the committee’s recommendations to expand crisis bed capacity all around the state and to fully fund the emergency services network. The Crisis Beds Work Group will meet later this month to review the analysis.

**WCMHS STAFF ANNOUNCEMENT**

Michael Hartman announced that he will leave his position as Director of Community Rehabilitation and Treatment to become the Director of Mental Health Services for the agency. Members offered him their congratulations. Michael will continue to chair the Secure Residential Work Group.

## SECOND SPRING UPDATE

Michael reported that closing on the purchase of the property by the developer is accomplished, opening the way for the builder to begin the renovations. These are expected to be complete by mid-March or, possibly, the end of February.

### Second Spring Committees Formed

Michael updated the group on the formation of the two committees that will function to provide guidance and oversight for the operations of Second Spring. One will function as a Clinical Steering Committee to develop mechanisms for the transition of VSH patients to the residential recovery program and a Community Advisory Group to provide broad community input to help guide the program's opening and successful establishment. The two committees are described in the State's contract for Second Spring.

## SECURE RESIDENTIAL

### Work Group Composition

Michael referenced earlier discussions about secure residential that took place when the work group met as the "sub-acute committee" to seek possible locations and approaches to development of residential recovery programs. Issues about the secure residential component of the Futures Plan also were discussed. Michael offered to provide a record of these earlier discussions and will send to members of the work group.

Judy suggested that the group look at its membership now that its primary focus will be secure residential. The group agreed to enlarge membership to include consistent representation of family members, consumers, designated agencies, legal counsel from DMH, and the medical director and nursing administrator of Vermont State Hospital. Judy will follow up to ensure that the group's membership reflects these perspectives and areas of expertise.

### Description of Secure Residential

The group began the process of developing a clear sense of who we are seeking to serve in a secure residential setting. Michael asked Judy to mail the section in the Futures Plan that concerns secure residential.

Tom shared a way of conceptualizing the population that require this type of a program. It would include individuals who have committed a crime for which they may or may not have gone to trial. There is a continued belief that they are responsible for perpetrating the crime. Their length of stay at VSH is influenced by public safety concerns; they remain at VSH for a considerable time beyond treatment. Active symptoms of psychiatric illness were present at the time the crime was committed and were causal to the crime.

The group will undertake as part of its charge to craft a description of secure residential and bring it to the Futures Advisory Committee for review.

### Community Relations

The group had a general discussion about community relations aspects of developing capacities for secure residential programs. Michael suggested the need to anticipate community input and reaction. Tom thought we may learn something by acquainting ourselves with telemetry technology that has application in early release programs. This technology makes it possible to transmit data measured at a remote location to a distant receiving station for recording and analysis. Tom will make inquiries in other states to gather information.

### Meeting Expectations of Judges

Group members pointed out that judges, in fulfilling their responsibility for public safety, proceed cautiously and slowly.

### Models Used for Other Populations Requiring Supervision

The group expressed interest in looking at a model that serves clients with developmental disabilities that require supervision. Michael referenced Act 248 homes for this purpose. Several Vermont providers have experience with Act 248 programs and we should invite them to meet with us. Judy will follow up with one or more of the individuals suggested: DAIL Deputy Commissioner Theresa Wood; Eric Grims, NEK; Judith Hayward, HCRS; Bill Ashe, Upper Valley Services.

NEXT MEETING: On January 10, the work group would like to hear from a presenter who can describe the Act 248 supervised home placements.

FUTURE MEETINGS: Monthly on Wednesdays, 9:00 to 11:00, in Dr. Simpatico's office at VSH: January 10, February 14, March 14, April 11

The meeting adjourned at 10:15.

SUBMITTED BY: Judy Rosenstreich  
[jrosen@vdh.state.vt.us](mailto:jrosen@vdh.state.vt.us)