

**Colorado Child and Adolescent Mental Health Coalition
Minutes of Board Meeting June 6, 2003**

Future Meetings:

Next Coalition Board Meeting: Friday, August 1, 2003 1:30-4:00, at Boulder County Social Services. Specific meeting location will be announced later.

Board Members in attendance at 6/6/03 mtng:

Debra Cady, President, Elissa Stein, Frank Bennett, Charles Perez, Marilyn Macintyre, David Feinman, Laurie Elliott, and John Dengler.

The meeting was called to order by President, **Debra**.

The first order of business was approval of the minutes from the April meeting.

Agency updates:

Frank reported that Aurora Mental Health is looking at new ways to survive on fewer dollars. He said they're looking at patients who stay in treatment for long periods of time (some more than a year in day treatment, for example) and evaluating them for intensive services so that they can complete their course of treatment sooner.

Laurie said that Arapahoe is building up their intensive in-home program for adolescents.

Elissa stated that Jefferson Mental Health is also trying to deal with the current (and possibly future) budget cuts. They have had to lay off staff and discontinue some programs, including closing their respite house.

Charles outlined some of the restructuring that's taking place in the state's Division of Child Welfare. He said the overall effect will result in county departments of social services having to work more closely with mental health centers. He said that, though federal funds are there, and have even been increased in some areas (CORE services appropriation increased by over \$2million, for example), it is not always clear how to get these funds to the local level.

Marilyn said that Larimer Mental Health is applying for an RTC waiver, and that they've undergone major restructuring in the past year. She said that they've—out of necessity—developed many innovative programs for children and adolescents in order to get services to them to keep them out of placements.

David reported that Ft. Logan has been pretty chaotic of late, as staff are wondering each day if they'll have a job tomorrow. He said 2 adult units have closed in the past year and the adolescent unit has lost both its music therapist and its recreational therapist. Also, other staff are retiring and not being replaced. He said the adolescent unit has not been consistently full as in the past—the 18 bed unit currently has 14 patients.

John said Parkview has had to combine its child & adolescent mental health unit and its adolescent substance abuse unit. This has not been going as smoothly as expected, but has been necessary due to funding cuts and dwindling referrals.

The information sharing time led to the question, "Where are all the kids, since no one is getting referrals anymore?"

Debra answered the question by saying that they are in youth detention centers. She said that all detention centers are full, and that, after a youth has been in detention for the maximum time allowed (30 days), he/she is automatically transferred to an "assessment" bed, where they can

remain for up to a year while awaiting disposition. After this period, the youth could be transitioned to “commitment” status, and be held indefinitely. Sadly, these youths receive minimal or no mental health services while they’re incarcerated in these facilities.

Financial report. Though no official Treasurer’s Report was available, **Frank** reported that he’s just spoken to our Treasurer, **Linda**. He reported that she’d told him we now have over \$19,000 in our account with all major bills paid, so we are in good shape.

Conference Committee report. The number one order of business is to replace Debbie, as her new job responsibilities preclude her continued involvement as Conference Coordinator for the Coalition. Though the consensus was that we’ll have a very difficult time replacing her, we immediately agreed that her duties are way too much for the Board to take on, so we need to hire someone to replace her. The conference committee, consisting of Frank, Laurie, Charles, and Marilyn was asked to prepare a job description and submit it to Debra by July 18.

Finally Laurie Elliott’s name was submitted as a potential member of the Coalition’s Board of Directors. She is with the Arapahoe Douglas Mental Health Network. The Board unanimously accepted Laurie as our newest member.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Dengler
CCAMHC Board Secretary