



**WCHO & CSTS TOWN HALL MEETING MINUTES**  
**October 26, 2005**  
**555 Towner**  
**Human Services Building**

**Provider Fair Displays**

Corner Health Center  
CSTS - Adult Services/Towner  
CSTS – Support Living  
CSTS – Youth & Family  
Dawn Farm/Huron St.  
Dawn Farm/Outpatient  
JB Payee Services  
Judson Center  
MAP  
Personalized Nursing  
Public Health  
Quest  
Services To Enhance Potential (STEP)  
Work Skills

**Town Hall Meeting**

B. Pattullo called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and asked providers, staff and consumers to sit down to identify problems with the system as well as solutions.

Issues were identified by group:

**Group #1~ Budget Issues**

- Discussions at Board Meetings: budget pressures are always present
- Economy is a problem in getting consumer's work in the community. There is a lot of competition with students.
- Chelsea is saturated with prison re-entry employees.
- WalMart raising standards of who they will hire.
- Recipients as employees; can help employers ~ same as benefit costs ~ systems sometimes create eligibility barriers that need communication to resolve.

- Employment situation is the same in counties that have universities or not getting employers to carve out appropriate jobs is getting harder.

Solutions:

- Employees believed incentives were an important consideration ~ built into structural barriers. Staff with disabilities will always remain at the ground level. There is some cooperation and collaboration between the major provider systems ~ use provider meetings as a source of information sharing.
- Develop ways to share employers' successes in support of recipients with DD.
- Consumer Celebration was partially designed to celebrate employers' role.
- Communication via Chamber of Commerce to help show the benefits to the individual and employee ~ effective way to address stigma.

**Group #2 ~ Mental Health & Substance Abuse**

- Mental Health – Washtenaw
- Mental Health/Substance Abuse – Livingston/Washtenaw

Solutions:

- Take care of families – helps – support for families
  - Just Us Club 1 & 2
- Access & knowledge to information (parents and consumers)
- Transition services – WISD – Community
- No acronyms – clear language
  - Outreach – easier access
  - User friendly

**Group #3 ~ Funding**

- Respite Center Concept
- Endowment
- Membership
- Other Health Concepts

Solution 1:

- Prevention funding and issues with outcomes
- Issues of “dry” shelter – what happens to the rest
- Role of the Faith Based Initiatives and Public Funding & Politics

Solution 2:

- Partnerships

### Solution 3:

- Simpler Information/more information

### **Group #4 ~ Resources For Young Adults**

- Gap – mental health care for young adults 15 – 18, not considered “severe” enough yet.
  - Lack of resources for
  - Talked about first break group – interest in how to access this services.

### Solutions:

- First Break Group
- HV or PV Clinic
- Integrated Care Sites
- People Care
- Doug Cunningham’s Project
  - Working to develop a reliable respite system
  - Funding on hold while Board considers funding priorities
  - He has been reaching out to community
  - Working on public/private partnerships
  - Doesn’t want project to stall and work to be wasted.
  - Surveys to be done, looked at multiple models. Report will be finished and out by December.
- Respite is useless unless you can count on it.
- Need a variety of types of respite.
- Need to have confidence in programs – has been happy with Jackson Center.
- If respite is not available, it may result in requisite for higher cost drivers.

### Current Resources Include:

- Just Us Club (after school program and adult program)
- Issue of beds available for crisis
- Problem with families ready to find own respite worker

### **Group #5 ~ Mental Health/Substance Abuse**

- **Barriers**
  - People have mental illness with no hospitalizations can’t get services
  - Have to get creative aftercare
  - Transitional housing lacking
    - Dawn Farm usually full
  - Some people designated “MI” by social security, but not in the system
  - Difficult to connect with Access
    - Phone rings and no one picks up
    - 800 # should have gone to PES

- Dawn Farm Detox is great, but full
- People call for help, but have a problem getting to the next level
- Acuity is higher; drugs are more potent
- Courts are getting stricter with more people
- Struggle with funding this year
  
- **Adult MI**
  - Affordable House – on limited income; trying to find a safe place
  - Try to match consumers together.
  
- **MI/SA**
  - Co-occurring can't find placement
  - Remain homeless