

ATLANTA AREA COALITION ON AGING & MENTAL HEALTH

Minutes: June 16, 2010

Attendees: Barbara Rosenberg, Keith Hartman, Dianne O'Donnell, Sue Burgess, Janet Fishman, Susan Fort, Eve Byrd and Cathy T. Rambach (admin: Michele Lyn Miles)

NEWS from Members:

Janet Fishman (CPS): announced the GA Mental Health Consumer Network is holding its 19th Annual Summer Conference in August (24th -26th). Janet is interested in taking some general information about the coalition to the conference.

Dianne O'Donnell (Gerontologist/Attorney): launching own law firm. She looks to provide home visits. She has some speaking engagements with the focus on the aging workforce. She is acting as a consultant to attorneys on caring for older adults.

Barbara Rosenberg (JF&CS): Started a grief support group at the NORC 4-5 p & Mon am at 1030 call Barbara for details. Flyer for Fuqua

Keith Hartman (VNHS): Attending group for the first time.

Sue Burgess (ARC): Discussed Dr. Bulot has joined the Division of Aging Services as the new Director. There is a 60 mil \$\$ package of grants for aging & disability resource center linkages in the affordable care act. She mentioned themes of: person-center systems, supporting difficult decisions, care transitions & an emphasis on caregivers. The needs of caregivers are a common theme spanning all areas where caretakers are evident, that is, in mental health, aging and developmental disabilities. Where systems of support are created for caregivers there is a natural sharing of resource information. There is the need for assessment of the care giver, are they depressed? What is the impact of the identity change over time, for example, relationships move from spouse: spouse to spouse: caregiver. Without support for caregivers, decisions can serve to isolate the caregiver further from family and friends. Imagine making a decision like, "Do I want to give up my spousal relation to take on the role of caregiver or do I want to hire someone to help with the care giving? The role changes are as confusing for the care recipient.

Cathy T. Rambach: Announcement of training Suicide Survivors in clinical setting: Suicide prevention & postvention. Fuqua provided Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) Training at the Atlanta Housing Authority. Feedback from the trained staff was good, they felt like they got some useful information about the people they work with. The hope is to change the environment of the high rises focusing on signs & symptoms of mental health problems before the resident mental health issues becomes a decision to evict. If you have been trained in MHFA or would like to be, the Fuqua center wants to know about your interest. Janet Fishman & VNHS system expressed an interest. Fuqua will be doing MHFA training for senior center managers & possibly contracting with VNHS for same. This training

really addresses stigma by including exercises that allow the trainee to experience, for example, what it feels like to have auditory hallucinations.

Sue Fort (NASW GA Chapter): Let's revisit the idea of Education for Social Workers. Our planning can probably be accomplished with one or two conference calls. Sue suggests using a training medium that will allow us to reach the most professionals desiring training. Instead of a one-time educational event, the idea on the table is to tape a presentation that can be accessed over time by interested clinicians. The suggestion is to coordinate a presentation by authorities in the field to a limited group of people at a venue to be determined. This session can be loaded to websites with a mechanism for continuing education credits to be earned, e.g., a post test. Follow up: Cathy will look into Emory resources for taping the session. We could also look into GA Public Broadcasting. Suggestion of speakers included members of Social Work schools which will lend legitimacy. The DVD would address topics concerning mental health and aging. E.g., Misdiagnoses Mental Health issues vs. Alzheimer's, Depression or Dementia, Confusion of Mental Health and Physical Health issues. ARC's amphitheatre 50-100 is a potential for the venue, possibly an in-kind contribution possible. We hypothesize the taping will take 6-8 hours.

Respectfully submitted,
Michele Lyn Miles