



New York Coalition for Asian American Mental Health
General Membership Meeting Minutes

Date of Meeting: January 20, 2011

Location: NYSOMH Regional Office – 330 Fifth Avenue, NYC

1. The meeting was call to order by Irene Chung at 4:00 p.m.
2. OMH Staff Updates and Initiatives: Ed Rohs, Jill Marsie and Ann Marie Bové, staff from NYS OMH Regional Office, provided an overview of recent initiatives. Jill Masie presented on the ongoing process to restructure the ambulatory service and reimbursement process. It is important for agencies to carefully itemize their services in order to maximize reimbursements through Part 599 funding. Questions about clinic re-structuring and the new Part 599 Regulations can be found on the OMH website: www.omh.state.ny.us under the “Clinic and Ambulatory Restructuring” tab. Service reimbursement rates can also be found on the website. However, home visits and outreach are not currently billable. Jill also shared and distributed resource information which agencies could supplement their funding through grants. Grant writing seminars and training, and information for potential philanthropies can be accessed at the Foundation Center-New York website at <http://foundationcenter.org/newyork>
3. Mr. Ed Rohs stated that some clinics are converting their CDT (Continuing Day Treatment Programs) into PROS (Personalized Recovery Oriented Services). PROS emphasis is integration of treatment, rehabilitation, and support services based on evidence-based practices. These programs are client-centered with a focus on realistic goals the clients can achieve in an outpatient setting. It encourages collaboration between the mental health care provider/worker and the patient to develop interventions which will support their goals and transition back into the community. Patient interventions could encompass employment, education, independent housing, relationships, hobbies, and interests. A list of PROS programs in the city was distributed to the members. Recently, Hamilton Madison House and Henry St. Settlement are initiating and incorporating PROS into their programs. Lutheran Medical Center has an outpatient wellness group for high functioning mentally ill patients and their families to assist them in the transition from the hospital to the community. OMH contact person regarding PROS: Ms. Susan Friedlander at (212) 330-1650.
4. Coalition Members Feedback Regarding Current Mental Health Issues Includes:
 - More outpatient services and community residences are needed to support and accommodate the transition of mentally ill Asian inpatients back to the community. The length of stays for these patients may be much longer because of placement difficulties. It would be much better for patients and for the system to shift the high cost of care from inpatient hospitalization to treatment services and living in community.
 - Insufficient number of culturally and linguistically appropriate resources available to address the increasing demands, resulting in long waiting lists for services and long length of stays in institutions. For example, the staffing and number of Asian patient beds at Creedmoor and South Beach psychiatric Centers have not kept up with the increase of Asian and new immigrant census in the community since these units opened in 1998. There is also a concern that if the few available bilingual mental health clinicians and workers are laid off due to their lack of seniority during budget crisis, it



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would have great impact on the ability of these programs to provide adequate services to Asian clients.

-There are many barriers to accessing culturally competent outpatient care for Asian clients, e.g., language, immigration status, lack of supervision of the client because, especially for new immigrant families, due to low wages, all members of the household need to work to keep up with their living expense.

-It was pointed out that more services needed to be extended to boroughs outside of Manhattan - especially in Brooklyn, where Asian population in community has greatly increased in recent years.

-Since there are not many community residences which can adequately provide services to monolingual Asian clients, Family Care Service has been explored as a possible option by OMH/South Beach Psychiatric Center in the past, but they experienced great difficulty in recruiting Asian family care service providers. Barriers identified include: Cultural - fear and stigma associated with living with mental ill individuals; Language - Service providers need to be bilingual; Living Quarter Requirements - potential providers do not have sufficient living space to meet the minimum guideline required by the Family Care Program standards. Economic - housing rental/cost, especially for living space large enough to accommodate a family care client is very high, especially in Manhattan.

It was decided that it would be helpful for community agencies serving Asian clients to identify and share issues, concerns and barriers to care with the Coalition, so that the information can be gathered and organized for further discussion at future meetings. This will also be helpful for our future dialogues with policy makers and officials.

5. Coalition Website (asianmentalhealth.org) - Dr. Irene Chung informed the members that the website has been re-vamped to include the following: Description of the Coalition has been updated. Employment opportunity section now includes a section for employment seekers to post their resumes. There is a plan to update the service resource list and Elizabeth Lee has volunteered to contact and update the resource list of service providers and community agencies for the website.

6. Coalition Yahoo Group - Dr. Pamela Schwartz has set up a Yahoo webgroup. She will be sending out an e-mail about instructions on how members and new members can subscribe to and access the Yahoo group. Once registered, members may post questions about patient concerns or professional concerns, etc., and members can provide feedback and exchange ideas regarding specific questions or issues. Pam cautioned members that questions and feedback will be posted and shared with all members in the webgroup.

7. The Alzheimer Association has offered its facility to host the March general meeting. The February meeting will be held at the Hamilton Madison House on 2/17/11. Tentative agenda includes: Further discussion regarding service barriers and how we can ensure policy makers are well informed regarding these issues for service improvement and program development as well as proper consideration when making decisions regarding budget and cuts in services.

8. The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.