**Louisiana Commission on Addictive Disorders (LCAD)**

**December 2013 Minutes**

December 10, 2013

1:05 p.m.

**Commission Members Present:**

* Kerri Cunningham
* Lloyd Hernandez
* Freddie Landry
* Tom Lief
* Shelly Mockler
* Anthony Wick

**Commission Members Absent:**

* Lana Bel**l**
* Damon Marcella
* Jon Lance Nickelson
* Mike Slocum

**OBH/HQ Staff Attending:**

* Rochelle Head-Dunham, Interim Assistant Secretary
* Charlene Gradney, Director of Consumer Recovery and Member Services Section
* B. J. Stafford, Administrative Assistant

**GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE:**

* LaMiesa Bonton, LA-ARDA
* Marolon Mangham, LASACT
* Marlin Gusman, Sheriff-Orleans Parish

**I. SERENITY PRAYER & ROLL CALL**

Freddie Landry called the meeting to order and Lloyd Hernandez led the Commission members in the Serenity Prayer. B.J. Stafford conducted roll call.

**II. APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 2013 MINUTES**

Committee members were provided a draft copy of the minutes for the November 2013 meeting of the LCAD. Dr. Lief reported his name was misspelled on Page Two and Three of the minutes. Ms. Landry called for a motion to approve the November 2013 minutes with corrections. Dr. Anthony Wick made a motion to approve the minutes with corrections. Shelly Mockler seconded the motion. All were in favor, and the motion passed to approve the November 2013 meeting minutes with corrections.

**III. OLD BUSINESS**

**A. REPORT FROM COMMISSION MEMBERS ON RAC ACTIVITIES/TRAININGS**

Freddie Landry introduced Kerri Cunningham, the newest Commission member, to all LCAD members and guests at the meeting. Each member introduced themselves and told a bit about themselves. Then Ms. Landry invited Commission members to share their experiences with any RAC activities and/or trainings since the last meeting.

**IV. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. REPORT FROM THE OFFICE OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH (OBH) – DR. ROCHELLE DUNHAM, INTERIM OBH ASSISTANT SECRETARY**

Charlene Gradney gave an update to the members of the Commission on OBH. Commission members were updated on a project that focused on Substance Abuse/Chronic Homelessness for Citizens with Mental Illness in New Orleans, Baton Rouge and Shreveport. Ms. Gradney provided the following update:

* + Awarded federal grant for $700,000 per year to address Substance Abuse/Chronic Homelessness. The grant will be implemented in the New Orleans, Baton Rouge and Shreveport areas first.
  + The grant pays for treatment through a continuum of care and permanent supportive housing through the Louisiana Housing Association.
  + Ms. Gradney was asked to find outthe targeted number of participants to be served by the grant.
  + Magellan of Louisiana, Inc. (Magellan) is the first point of contact for homeless veteran needing permanent supportive housing. Veterans can access the Magellan website or call them to complete an application. Once the application is submitted, Magellan follows up with the applicant. Approved applications are forwarded to the Louisiana Housing Association. This continuum of care in New Orleans is provided by Unity for the Homeless.
  + This grant will be implemented in January 2014. The continuum made it known many homeless veterans can be found living under bridges and these locations must be included in an outreach by “going under the bridges” to target these veterans to offer them treatment and permanent supportive housing.
  + Unity for the Homeless in New Orleans administers a locally awarded CABBY Grant. Therefore, Unity for the Homeless in New Orleans will be the liaison at the local level. The Salvation Army is an Access to Recovery (ATR) Provider, so they will provide some support and transportation for the substance abuse treatment.

**B. ADRA/LASACT MONTHLY REPORT (OPTIONAL)**

LaMiesa Bonton, with ARDA, provided Commission members with the following update:

* The new Counselor-in-Training (CIT) rule and regulations have completed the approval process and are now in effect. The scope of work for this position is being revised to clearly state CIT’s cannot work independently.
* The ADRA website is a good resource to learn more on this subject.
* ADRA will soon be releasing a newsletter.

Marolon Mangham, with LASACT, reported on the following:

* There is a new exam for the Certified Prevention Professionals.
* New exams for the RAC, LAC, and CAC’s are in the process of being developed.
* The 2014 LASACT Conference will be held in New Orleans at the Astor-Crowne Plaza Hotel, August 3-6, 2014. The theme of the conference will be Behavioral Health and Trauma. The contact person for the conference presenters is Bernadine Williams.
* LASACT is continuing to work on the certification process for becoming a peer support specialist (PSS). There are several issues that still need to be worked out such as who can be grandfathered in as a peer support specialist. At the present time, there are about 175 PSS in the state. These PSS primarily work for Behavioral Health; although, the number of PSS working with addictive disorders is increasing.

Charlene Gradney reported an increase in the number of PSS. Ms. Gradney informed the Commission members that PSS are not clinicians and they are not administrative support staff. She went on to explain that when hospitals discharge patients the PSS helps the patient along the way with this process. The salary for a PSS ranges from $13.00 to $15.00 per hour. The New Orleans area has the highest paid PSS. They are paid approximately $18.00 per hour. Some PSS are paid as low as minimum wage – depends on the services reimbursement rate.

Dr. Rochelle Dunham let the Commission members know the state’s gambling treatment services are not part of the Louisiana Behavioral Health Partnership (LBHP) and these services are not reimbursed by Medicaid. There is a lot of erosion in the area of gambling treatment services at the local level since they have no designated staff for these services. The bed capacity within OBH declined even though OBH had a designated staff person for these services. OBH is currently in the process of hiring a staff person to help the districts increase their services. The casinos are providing support through OBH to fund gambling treatment services, conduct awareness campaigns and hire staff.

**C. COMMISSION MEMBERS REPORTS**

Dr. Tony Wick stated that the next meeting of the Treatment Sub-Group of the Greater New Orleans Drug Demand Reduction Coalition (GNODDRC) will be held in January 2014. The Treatment Sub-Group will not meet in December 2013.

**V. GUEST SPEAKER: SHERIFF MARLIN GUSMAN, ORLEANS PARISH SHERIFF’S OFFICE**

Marlin Gusman with the Orleans Parish Sheriff’s Office provided the Commission member with a presentation on the Orleans Parish Prison’s (OPP) substance abuse treatment services that it provides to its prisoners. Sheriff Gusman shared the following information about its facility and to the substance abuse treatment it currently offers:

* The new building for the Orleans Parish Sheriff’s Office will be opening in four or five months. It will include more treatment space for those prisoners with substance abuse issues. In the meantime, prisoners with substance abuse issues are offered: Alcoholics Anonymous (AA), Narcotic Anonymous (NA), and some individual and group counseling.
* The new building is designed as a “direct supervision” facility, which means the deputies will be in the center and prisoners will be housed on the outside of where the deputies are stationed/located.
* Marvin Trudeaux is the counselor for the Sheriff’s Office.
* The intake process includes a very extensive questionnaire.
* The re-entry program includes:
* Education
* Risk Factor Assessment
* Individual Case Management (Provided by Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse- CADA)
* Counseling upon release from prison
* Day Reporting Center (An Alternative to Incarceration)
* Prisoners serving their sentences at home receive:
* weekly drug testing
* daily individual and/or group counseling sessions
* Intervention Services
* Approximately 60 to 70 percent of people being charged or appealing their cases have addictive disorder issues.
* Smoking is illegal in all penal institutions in Louisiana. Orleans Parish Prison’s do not offer nicotine patches.
* Dr. Dunham informed Sheriff Gusman that if nicotine patches could be provided, even for two (2) weeks, it would really help. She went on to report that when smoking was first prohibited in all OBH treatment facilities in Louisiana, a withdrawal program had to be offered and provided in each facility. Withdrawal from cigarettes bring on aggressive behavior, even withdrawal from caffeine can bring about aggression. Dr. Dunham suggested that withdrawal issues may be bringing about some of the difficulties with fighting, etc. within the penal facilities.
* Provides Suboxone treatment
* Dr. Higgins is the psychiatrist working along with a psychologist.
* Stacy Horne-Koch is an advocate for the homeless population with the City of New Orleans. Approximately 500 of the homeless population are Department of Corrections (DOC) inmates. Serving the homeless population is difficult and challenging.
* Before Katrina, OPP had 12 Step-Down Programs.
* Step Down Tiers:
* Women Step Down Population

1. Females are currently housed in tents which are open dorms

2. Females are also house in Building A2 that houses:

* the mentally Ill,
* those with disciplinary problems, and
* protective custody
* Men Step Down Population

1. Mentally ill: acute and suicidal

2. Mentally ill with medical issues: needs oxygen or has a colostomy, etc

3. Healthy inmates but may be in a wheelchair

* OPP uses the [Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT)](http://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&frm=1&source=web&cd=4&cad=rja&ved=0CEoQFjAD&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.samhsa.gov%2Fprevention%2Fsbirt%2F&ei=DbXyUrbGGuXEyQGEgYGQBw&usg=AFQjCNE5F5BBIEzRvwBCkcXbkchGyKDWng&sig2=uP4PwqDi_gVVP7xhTYKaug&bvm=bv.60799247,d.aWc) model
* Provides training to their counseling staff

**VI. NEXT COMMISSION MEETING**

The next meeting of the Louisiana Commission on Addictive Disorders was discussed, and the date, time, and location were set. The next meeting will take place in Baton Rouge, at OBH Headquarters, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 14, 2014.

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

Freddie Landry called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Shelly Mockler made the motion to adjourn, and Dr. Tony Wick seconded the motion. All were in favor, and the motion passed to adjourn the meeting at 2:50 p.m.