

Norfolk Homeless Consortium
Committee: Healthcare
Date: August 6, 2008

Attendees:

Yvonne Price, Park Place Med Ctr
Julie Dixon, The Planning Council
Valerie Stallings, Norfolk Health Dept
Jill Gray, Union Mission
Angela King, STOP, Inc.
Melanie Rivera, Forkids
Jenine Harland, STOP, Inc.

Jay Clarke, Gosnold Apartments
Dr. Subir Vij, Park Place Med Ctr
Latresa Maxie, Union Mission
Alicia Matthews, St. Columba
Pam Phillips, Bon Secours
Barbara Willis, Park Place Med Ctr
Yilla Smith, The Planning Council

I. Agenda Items

- Presentation: Updates and changes in services at PPMC (appointments, hours, outreach, # patients seen vs scheduled, etc.)
- Updates on Medication Assistance Program at St. Columba
- Update on Union Mission's Wellness Program
- Update on Life Coach Program at Bon Secours
- Other business

II. Key Decisions/Action Items

Healthcare for the Homeless Update:

- PPMC demonstrated program updates and progress made on seeing new and established patients. In July 2008, 25 new patients were seen, as well as 36 established patients. The goal is to have 80 encounters a month (40 new patients). There is visible improvement in the number of established patients being seen at PPMC.
- The ACCESS van is picking up at Union Mission on Thursdays at 12:30-12:45 and provider agencies are coordinating to get their clients on it for the 3 appointments each week. Call Yvonne Price to arrange for a client to go on the van (232-1196).
- PPMC is working out referral and payment issues with the Ambulatory Care Center so that homeless clients seen at those places can receive care and PPMC will pay for the co-payment out of the Healthcare for the Homeless grant.
- PPMC reminded us they have extended hours to receive patients: Tues / Thurs 5 – 8 pm and also every 1st and 3rd Wednesday from 9 am – 12:00.
- Flu shots are being planned now for the homeless. This region tends to respond best to shots administered October – December.

Medication Assistance Program Update:

- The program launched in mid-July with level funding although Alicia is seeking additional funding from other sources so that the program does not run out of money before June. Referral forms are available from St. Columba (627-6748) and there is a new restriction: prescriptions can be filled only 3 times per person as this program is meant to fill the gap.

Union Mission Wellness Program Update:

- The Union Mission program is going well; mostly men are being assisted. Staff act as liaisons to help clients get medical appointments of all kinds and are planning on-site health education classes. Most referrals are for PPMC and medications through St. Columba.

Life Coach Program Update:

- Two full-time Life Coaches are available at the Emergency Department at DePaul hospital. Uninsured patients are referred to the Life Coaches for follow-up care and to learn about other services available in the community. The Life Coaches set appointments for the clients at PPMC and conduct follow-up after the appointment. Park Place is seeing approximately 150 patients from this program. Recent DePaul data shows a decrease of approximately 300 patients. One issue is that DePaul sees patients return to them when they can't get a same-day appointment at PPMC.

III. Additional business

- EVMS met with Dr. Vij to look into the possibility of 4th year medical students rotating through PPMC and helping with outreach, intake and triage for homeless clients.
- Dr. Vij asked Julie to look into how homeless status can be verified for those clients referred by emergency departments at various hospitals in Norfolk.
- DePaul hospital is financially struggling and working with the City of Norfolk to agree on the size of the building. They have also filed a new Certificate of Need with the State. Some units are closed and re-distributed elsewhere but they will remain open and are not leaving Norfolk.
- The next Project Homeless Connect is set for August 21 and the Tidewater Dental Association has again agreed to provide dental equipment and volunteers.
- Dr. Stallings is retiring September 1st from the Norfolk Public Health Dept and her replacement is being recruited now.
- An invitation will go out to get an update at our next meeting on the new ODU / CSB mental health collaboration.

IV. Next Meeting: October 1, 10:00 am

NOTE: The group determined that meeting every other month is best. Meetings will be held at the Park Place Medical Center Boardroom. Parking at the church next door is fine if there are no spaces at the clinic.