

Norfolk Homeless Consortium
Healthcare Committee
Meeting Minutes
October 1, 2008

Attendees:

Yilla Smith, The Planning Council	Bell McHugh, ACCESS
Pam Phillips, Bon Secours DePaul Hospital	Angela King, Bon Secours DePaul Hospital
Jenine Harland, Bon Secours DePaul Hospital	Katie Kitchin, Office to End Homelessness
Yvonne Price, Park Place Medical Center	Ora Reaves, Park Place Medical Center
Barbara Willis, Park Place Medical Center	Dr. Subir Vij, Park Place Medical Center
Bernette Brown, Sentara Ambulatory Care Center	Alicia Matthews, St. Columba

I. Agenda Items

- Update on Health Care for the Homeless program at PPMC
- Transportation Update
- Medication Assistance Update
- Other business

II. Key Decisions/Action Items

Healthcare for the Homeless Update:

PPMC reported that September's numbers identify a short fall in their efforts to meet the established goal to have 80 encounters a month (40 new patients). September's numbers acknowledged a total of 50 encounters for the month (17 new patients), a couple of issues with transportation may be the cause. Although, September's numbers fell short, PPMC has managed to exceed the established goal in the months prior. The committee requested that future reports capture at least a three (3) month snap shot.

Transportation Update

The ACCESS van continues to pick-up at Union Mission on Thursdays at 12:30 - 12:45. Provider agencies are coordinating to get their clients on the van for the three (3) appointments each week. ACCESS reported an average of two (2) people per pick-up, and noted that appointments have been exceeding the 1:00 - 3:30 time slots and that patients aren't ready to leave until about 4:30 pm. Call Yvonne Price to arrange for a client to go on the van (232-1196).

Medication Assistance Program Update:

Alicia reported that 40 prescriptions were filled in August. Referral forms are available from St. Columba (627-6748) and there is a new restriction: prescriptions can be filled only three (3) times per person as this program is meant to fill the gap. Alicia expressed concerns that clients aren't being provided with resources once they leave, and that they are leaving PPMC with prescriptions, but are not stopping by St. Columba to have the prescriptions filled. PPMC will reinforce referrals and available resources with doctors and work to

establish a way to identify homeless patients, possibly via a sticker that can be placed on the patients charts as flags for providers

Life Coach Program Update:

Life Coaches reported an increase in the number of homeless person in Emergency Department at DePaul hospital. Many of the homeless patients being seen in the emergency room refuse to go to shelters and therefore , haven't been deemed homeless. Life Coaches requested permission to declare a patient homeless so that clients can receive additional care at PPMC. Park Place is seeing approximately 125 new patients and 100 established patients every month from this program.

III. Additional business

- ForKids, Inc. requested that PPMC consider assigning permanent slots for families and children. This request will be placed on the December agenda for further discussion.
- PPMC reminded the committee that they have extended hours to receive patients: Tues / Thurs 5 – 8 pm and also every 1st and 3rd Wednesday from 9 am – 12:00.
- Dr. Vij reported that he recently spoke with EVMS to re-visit the possibility of 4th year medical students rotating through PPMC and helping with outreach, intake and triage for homeless clients.
- Katie Kitchin asked that PPMC re-visit a June committee discussion on street outreach and on-site care for the homeless. PPMC reported a need for a funding source to further outreach efforts.

IV. Next Meeting: December 3, 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.