



RETREAT AGENDA

January 30, 2009

10AM-3PM

**Neighborhood Housing and Community Development Conference Room
1000 E. 11th Street, Room 400A**

- I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**
- II. STAKEHOLDER MEETING ON MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES FOR THE CITY OF AUSTIN'S 2009-2014 CONSOLIDATED PLAN**

MMHTFMC members were asked to provide input on the upcoming Consolidated Plan related to housing in our community.

- III. OVERVIEW OF 2008 ACTIVITIES/PRODUCTS**
Susan Stone



OVERVIEW OF 2008 ACTIVITIES/PRODUCTS

➤ Criminal Justice Forum

In January of 2008, the MMHTFMC hosted a public forum at City Hall to highlight the many activities taking place in Austin and Travis County related to the interface between criminal justice and mental health systems. The panel included Police Chief Art Acevedo, Major Mark Sawa, Judge Nancy Hohengarten, and representatives from Travis County Adult and Juvenile Probation Departments and ATCMHMR. The forum was well attended and well received.

➤ ECI Forum

In October of 2008, the MMHTFMC hosted a public forum at City Hall regarding early childhood interventions for children ages 0-5. Dr. Libby Doggett was the keynote speaker. The forum, which was also well attended, focused on successful strategies already taking place to address the needs of this vulnerable population, and ways to expand those strategies.

➤ Consumer Housing Survey

While there is a good deal of planning taking place around affordable housing in Austin, insufficient attention is being given to the specific housing needs of individuals with mental illness. Similarly, most systems provide inadequate attention to what mental health consumers say *they* want in terms of affordable housing. To address this, the MMHTFMC has developed a Consumer Housing Survey that was distributed at Health Care Clinics across town to begin building a data set around this important issue.

➤ Financial Modeling

Similarly, while supportive housing is a nationally recognized best practice, not only for individuals with mental illness, but for individuals with other special needs, it has not been extensively implemented in Texas. Through a collaborative Memorandum of Understanding with the Corporation on Supportive Housing (MMHTFMC, Austin Travis County Health and Human Services, and the Travis County Re-Entry Round Table), our community will be participating in a planning process in 2009 that addresses financial issues with regard to fully implementing supported housing in our community.

➤ **Indicators**

The MMHTFMC has continued its work in the identification and coordination of a set of indicators to measure progress toward the goal of becoming a national model of a mentally healthy community. The MMHTFMC indicators have been incorporated into other initiatives in this area, including Ready by 21, the Central Texas Sustainability Indicators Project, and the Community Action Network activities. The Monitoring Committee has submitted this list for national recognition by the Community Indicators Consortium.

➤ **Service System Capacity Analysis**

In 2006 and 2007, the MMHTFMC distributed service system capacity surveys to answer the question, “what do we currently have in terms of behavioral health services?” The corollary question, however, is what *should* we have for a population our size? To address this question, the MMHTFMC, in conjunction with ATCMHMR, began to develop service system capacity and gaps analysis. The first such analysis addressed the need for expanded inpatient psychiatric hospital capacity. A follow up analysis addressed the need for expansion of outpatient public behavioral health services. Future work in this area will address service system capacity analysis for private and non-profit organizations in our community.

➤ **Hogg Foundation Submission**

The work of the MMHTFMC will be recognized nationally in a peer-reviewed article in the January, 2009 edition of the Foundation Review Journal. This article, which was co-authored by Lynda Frost and Susan Stone, described the origination and evolution of the Monitoring Committee, and will highlight its many products and activities.

➤ **Suicide Data Plan**

While the suicide rate in individual communities is tracked by the Texas Department of State Health Services, the most recent data produced by that Department tracks back to 2005. The lack of timely data about suicide is a significant problem in terms of the development of a coordinated prevention response. In collaboration with the Austin Travis County Suicide Prevention Coalition, the MMHTFMC (with funding from ATCMHMR and the New Milestones Foundation) contracted with a consultant to develop a system to collect real time data about suicide trends in our community. This system, which we believe is the first of its kind in the nation, will be fully implemented in 2009.

➤ **Suicide Postvention Planning**

Unfortunately, our community experienced a “cluster” of suicides among youth in the closing months of 2007. In response to this tragic turn of events, the Austin Travis County Suicide Prevention Coalition launched an initiative to develop protocols for how to respond to suicides (called suicide postvention) to avoid replication of suicidal behavior. The MMHTFMC was actively involved in this important work.

➤ **Suicide Prevention Training for Justice System Gatekeepers**

In February of 2008, Travis County was once again a test site for an important initiative related to the interface between mental health and criminal justice. Through an application by the MMHTFMC, and support from the Travis County Mental Health Public Defender’s Office, Policy Research Associates tested a new suicide prevention curriculum for justice system gatekeepers among attorneys and probation officers at the downtown courthouse. The curriculum was well received, and a second test of a revised curriculum specifically for probation officers will take place in March of 2009.

➤ **1st Tier Partner in CSH Proposal**

The MMHTFMC is a full partner to the Austin Travis County Re-Entry Round Table submission of a proposal to the Corporation for Supportive Housing in an endeavor to expand the array and capacity of supportive housing for individuals returning to our community from the criminal justice system.

IV. REVIEW/UPDATE OF 39 CRITERIA

Participants broke out into small groups to review the 39 criteria in the original task force report. All agreed that revisions were needed. Susan agreed to propose some modified criteria for discussion at the February meeting of the MMHTFMC.

V. SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

Detailed reports were provided by subcommittee chairs for each of the focus areas.

VI. EVOLVING ROLE OF MMHTFMC

This retreat marks the end of the fourth year of the MMHTFMC. Participants reviewed the history of the task force, the formation of the monitoring committee and its evolving role. In the end, members agreed that the future of the MMHTFMC should be considered in the same way that it began, i.e., by an ad hoc subcommittee of community leaders. Susan agreed to request that the ATCMHMR Board appoint such a committee. She also agreed to prepare a document that reviews the past four years—work done, and work left to be done.

VII. COMMUNICATION PLAN

Iliana Gilman discussed further the development of a communication plan for the MMHTFMC. All agreed that further work in this regard should be delayed until after the ad hoc committee makes recommendations about the future of the committee.

VII. 2008 ANNUAL REPORT

The 2008 Annual Report will be presented to the ATCMHMR Board on March 26th and to the Austin City Council in April (date to be determined). MMHTFMC members were encouraged to attend the City Council Meeting, particularly since this will report will include an appreciation for Mayor Wynn as he departs the Mayor's office.

VIII. SCHEDULING

Upcoming meetings of the MMHTFMC:

February 27, 2009

March 27, 2009

April 24, 2009

VIII. ADJOURN

