

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

RESOLUTION NO. 99-160

Creating a Multnomah County Mental Health Task Force

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:

- a. As the local mental health authority, Multnomah County has primary responsibility for the administration of public mental health services in our community.
- b. Over the last five years there have been major changes in the funding of mental health services, primarily as a result of the implementation of managed care.
- c. The implementation of managed care has brought substantial structural changes in the mental health and substance abuse services delivery system.
- d. Demand for mental health services continues to exceed access to appropriate services.
- e. Some community non-profit agencies have had to reduce services as they transition to managed care.
- f. Many consumers require treatment for alcohol and drug as well as mental health issues but funding mechanisms for the two systems are not well coordinated.
- g. The increasing complexity of the system reduces public understanding of issues and raises new challenges.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Resolves:

1. The Chair will appoint a Mental Health Task Force to study the local mental health system and make recommendations to the County Chair and the Board of County Commissioners. The Task Force will include up to twelve individuals with expertise in mental health and organizational development issues.
2. The task force will analyze the current system for public mental health treatment in Multnomah County and compare it with best practices at the national level. The task force will analyze strengths of the current system as well as problems.
3. The task force will collect input from stakeholders and from the public. It will establish working groups around specific topics and will provide opportunities for open public input.

4. After it has collected information about the current system and before it formulates recommendations, the Task Force will share the information about the current system with the Board of County Commissioners and the public.
5. The Task Force will utilize national experts to gain information about best practices and will share that information with the Board of County Commissioners and the public.
6. Within the context of the overall analysis, the task force will study questions including but not limited to: What are the causes of service reductions in recent years? What are the highest priority services? How can provision of those services be maximized with the constraints of existing funding? Can system overhead costs be reduced? What is the optimum administrative model for public mental health services in Multnomah County? Is the current mix of public and private entities appropriate? What are the additional costs of providing mental health services in an urban area and how should funding be adjusted? What is the interrelationship of mental health and alcohol and drug services and what system improvements would you suggest for the large proportion of dual diagnosis clients? What is the best way to provide mental health services to offenders in and out of correctional facilities and to reduce recidivism?
7. The task force will produce a written report including findings and recommendations by March 31, 2000.

Adopted this 5th day of August, 1999.



REVIEWED:

Thomas Sponsler, County Counsel
For Multnomah County, Oregon

By Thomas Sponsler
Thomas Sponsler

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

Beverly Stein
Beverly Stein, Chair