Behavioral Health Task Force (BHTF)
Meeting Summary
October 21, 2009

Members Present:
Peter Buckley; Eve Byrd; Cindy Darden; Wes Landers (for James DeGroot); Margaret Evans; Richard Harrison; Anita Huft; Jan Ligon; Garry McGiboney; Steve Miller; Mary Lou Rahn; David Sofferin; Cayce Kump

Center for Health Workforce Planning and Analysis (CHWPA) staff present:
Kristi Fuller; Ben Robinson; Chris Albrecht

Guest(s):
Terry Durden, Director, ICAPP, USG

Meeting Commencement and Opening Remarks:
Ben Robinson opened the meeting by thanking Richard Harrison and the Department of Juvenile Justice for hosting the meeting. Ben gave a brief recap of the previous meeting to make sure all “understood the issues at hand” in order to have an “honest discussion” about solutions and resource capacity.

Individual Introductions:
Members of the task force introduced themselves.

Specific Workforce Issues:
- Retention of existing staff - Discussion was held about the salary, quality, training and skill set of current staff.
- Shortage of personnel in key areas - Existing shortages discussed.
- Preparedness of recent graduates. Need to make additional clinical training opportunities and make sure that they are positive experiences so they will return to work in these environments.
- Skill set of personnel in certain professions
  - HST’s
  - Behavioral Analysts – need behavioral analysts and behaviorally trained psychologists to supervise them.
  - Others
    - The group discussed the need for persons trained in developmental disabilities
- Pending retirement in key areas was acknowledged.
- Medicaid licensure and reimbursement changes – Regulations were changed in July, this will have a profound impact on some of the service systems.
- Others –
  - Need to attract behaviorally trained psychologists to BH.
  - HRSA Title 8 funding has been loosened up. Ben will get this information out to the group.
Anita discussed potential funding sources that she has recently received and she will forward this information to the group.

- Need to determine ways to attract students and employees into the field and workplace.
- Consider the potential opportunities that exist in telesupervision and telemedicine

**Range of Approaches Required:**
- Expanding existing pipeline
  - ICAPP – USG’s rapid response capability
  - Fast Track – Valdosta has a 15 month fast-track nursing program
  - Clinical Training – need to embed training opportunities
  - Other Options
- Training and Re-Training the Existing Workforce
  - Regular classroom approach
  - Continuing Education System – for cost, not for credit – but required
  - Certificate Programs - for credit, issue is cost, charge higher tuition
  - Others
- Technical College System approaches – certificates, diplomas, or degrees

**Resource Capacity and Developing Partnerships:**
It was noted that the economic times are bad for all. There was discussion on possible sharing faculty with hospitals or the mental health system to fill critical vacancies. MCG and the GA Dept. of Behavioral Health are doing this. Also discussed was the need for clinical faculty lines. Federal opportunities were discussed – the group felt as though there was a good mix a the table to put together a very attractive proposal showing a statewide response.

**Focus of Future Work:**
- Funding
- Faculty
- Partnerships
- Articulation issues/TCSG
- Ideas for training behavioral analysts and PhD’s

**Meeting Dates:**
January 13, 2010
March 10, 2010

Submitted by:
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Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia