

**WASHINGTON COUNTY
LOCAL MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCIL
Minutes of November 8, 2011**

NAME	present	absent	NAME	present	absent
Robert Rafferty	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Commissioner Lehrke	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Amber Yares	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Peggy Herzog	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Daniel Parnell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Anja Kuehne-Welsh	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Laura Weber	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Joseph Bauer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cindy Rupp	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Edward Simonet	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Julia Beagan	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jeffery Treague	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ken Schwarten	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Linda Stanton	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Amy Rostron-Ledoux	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Regina Walker	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Danni Levorson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jeremy Jenkins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Erika Ashe	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Marjenia Williams	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Pam Johnson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lydia Engle	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Guests: Jim Zuleger, Tom Johnson, John Hebeisen, Danielle Szczepanski, Traci Thompson, Rick Backman

Jeremy Jenkins, Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m. Motion was made by Amber Yares to approve meeting minutes of September 13, 2011, seconded by Ken Schwarten. Motion carried.

Overview of Civil Commitment Act and Panel Discussion

Jim Zuleger, Assistant County Attorney, gave presentation to the LAC on some of the basics of Civil Commitment, Minnesota Statute 253B.02. Different types of commitment include: Mentally Ill (MI), Chemically Dependent (CD), Developmentally Disabled (DD), Mentally Ill and Dangerous (MI & D), Sexual Psychopathic Personality (SPP), and Sexually Dangerous Person (SDP). Subdivision 13 states that one must pose a substantial likelihood of physical harm to self or others in order to be committed as mentally ill. This language was recently changed from “imminent harm” to “substantial likelihood” of physical harm. A commitment is recommended if there is no other less restrictive alternative available.

Commitments are normally for a six-month period, but can be extended. A Jarvis Order is a court order for neuroleptic medications for a mentally ill person who refuses recommended medications. Washington County will not accept a petition for commitment without an Examiner’s Statement. An examiner is a licensed physician, a licensed psychologist who has a doctoral degree in psychology, or a certified nurse practitioner. A written examiner’s statement must be received within 15 days of filing a petition for commitment. Normally, the county will receive a commitment request from a hospital where the client is a patient. The prepetition screening team will investigate, interview client and collateral contacts, and confer and send written report to County Attorney. The County Attorney Office will then decide whether to proceed with petition.

If they decide to proceed, there would be a preliminary hearing and a commitment hearing. A commitment hearing is a civil trial before a judge usually held in a courtroom setting and follows formal court procedures, including witness interviews and independent examiner's opinions to the court. The County Attorney must prove that the person has a mental illness and meets all the requirements for commitment. The hearing may be extended an additional 30 days. The final decision to commit is made by the judge.

Minnesota Statute 253B.09 gives details on Decision, Standard of Proof, and Duration of Commitments. Local prison convictions and MI & D commitments may be for an indeterminate period of time.

There was a question raised regarding child commitments. Washington County has only had one child commitment in the last fifteen years (approximately). For most juveniles, our juvenile court system works well. A CHIPS Petition (Child in Need of Protection or Services) can be filed by Social Services. A CHIPS Petition is a legal petition filed to bring assistance to a child in need. We do not emancipate children in Washington County.

There was discussion and questions regarding commitment in Washington County. Washington County normally supports about sixty percent of commitments. Case managers seek out resources and treatment for clients to help deal with problems, behaviors, acting out, etc., in order to avoid a commitment. Psychiatric medications, therapy, social supports, and family supports are very important for clients dealing with a mental illness. It is important that civil liberties are respected and that commitment is the least restrictive alternative available. Some clients are very resistive to therapy or treatment, and commitment is the only option for them at that particular time.

Prison commitments have increased over the past five years. Approximately 30 staff from the Department of Corrections recently underwent Crisis Intervention Training (CIT). This Crisis Intervention Training will also take place at eleven other facilities.

Meeting Adjournment

Motion was made by Dan Parnell to adjourn at 5:30 p.m., seconded by Laura Weber.
Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Anderson