

**COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE
APRIL 28, 2009**

Community Services

Members

In Attendance: Lois Bronz, Chair, Ken Jenkins, Vito Pinto, Jose Alvarado.

In Attendance: DCMH: Grant Mitchell, Melissa Staats BOL: Mary Jackson and Melanie Montalto Guests: Alfreda Williams

Items Discussed: Oversight on several programs in Community Mental Health

Minutes

Chairwoman Bronz called the Community Services Committee meeting to order at 3:20 P.M.

Dr. Grant Mitchell, Commissioner of the Department of Community Mental Health, gave a presentation to update the Committee on the progress and services provided in his department.

The Commissioner discussed how many people the Department serves through 162 agencies that they contract with and the County clinics. He stated that the clinics have had over 25,000 patient visits for residents who cannot afford other care. He discussed the restructuring of the Department and the clinics to be more efficient, reduce needed man hours, and help reduce the rate of patients who miss appointments which has been at 30%.

The presentation highlighted the Care Coordination program, which is also called Team Care, which services those who have the highest use of services and Medicaid costs. This program works with the individual to create a personal service plan and have the services work together without duplication.

The presentation also discussed the TASC program which is a diversion to the criminal justice system for substance abusers with mental illness. The Department has seen an increase in clients to the program, which it is handling by using teleconference equipment with the jail in order to conduct assessments for the program more quickly and efficiently. The TASC program has saved the County over \$31,000,000 in 2008 alone by preventing incarceration.

The Committee also briefly discussed Autism and the Autism Task force with the Commissioner, and a separate Committee meeting is being scheduled for the near future solely on the topic.

A copy of the presentation is on file and available for review.

Moved by Legislator Pinto and seconded by Legislator Jenkins the Committee on Community Services adjourned at 4:11 p.m.

A complete audio recording of the meeting is available for review upon request.