Behavioral Health Services Workgroup  
January 9, 2012  
Conference Call

Members Present: Phyllis Arends, Terry Dosch, Shawna Fullerton, Amy Iversen-Pollreisz, Senator Elizabeth Kraus, Steve Lindquist, Kim Malsam-Rysdon, Eric Matt, Lt. Governor Matt Michels, Representative Nick Moser, Betty Oldenkamp, Scott Peters, Carol Regier, Tom Stanage, Dr. Matt Stanley, Dr. Ramish Somepalli, Gib Sudbeck, Lynne Valenti, Pam VanMeeteren, and Tiffany Wolfgang.

Legislative Talking Points and Education/Outreach Efforts
Legislative talking points were distributed and discussed regarding DSS 6 (Senate Bill 15) and DSS 7 (Senate Bill 14). See attachment for additional details.

Workgroup members discussed the various entities that they have outreached to regarding the legislation as well as those entities that will be contacted.

Discussion of the Governor’s Recommended Budget
Kim Malsam-Rysdon shared information regarding the Governor's Recommended Budget. Increases for both community mental health and community alcohol and drug services are included in the budget and directly relate to the priorities and work of the Behavioral Health Services Workgroup. The recommended expansions include: $262,795 for children’s mental health; $190,350 for adult mental health; $443,635 for outpatient substance abuse services; and $82,498 for detox services.

Kim also shared information on a change to correctional health care pharmacy services that will result in better options for controlling costs and reducing medications errors and waste by internalizing such services through the Human Services Center pharmacy.

Updates on Progress Regarding the Behavioral Health Reorganization
Updates regarding the following subcommittees of the Behavioral Health Services Workgroup were shared: Geriatric subcommittee and Prevention subcommittee. Information regarding work within the Divisions of Community Behavioral Health and Correctional Behavioral Health were also shared with members.
Timelines and Next Steps
Next steps involve working on the regional concept for behavioral health services, including identifying the services that should be available within each region and gaps in such services. Terry Dosch offered to assist with this. Terry and Shawna Fullerton will develop a draft for consideration at the next meeting, which will likely be held after the Legislative Session ends.

The Commitment Laws Subcommittee will also reconvene to begin work on the next phase of the involuntary commitment statute review once the current bills have gone through the legislative process.