

Report: Actions of the Spartanburg County Behavioral Health Taskforce

Otis L Baughman III, MD CPE

Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System

The Spartanburg County Behavioral Health Taskforce

- There is recognition of the impact of unmet behavioral health needs in our community
- The 4 Joint Funders in Spartanburg [County Foundation, United Way, Mary Black Foundation, Spartanburg Regional Foundation] funded the Behavioral Health Needs Assessment for Spartanburg County. Full report presented 2/13.
- The report found an unmet need for behavioral health services in the county of 84%.

The Spartanburg County Behavioral Health Taskforce

- Some of the Challenges
 - 50% of men/75% of women incarcerated have mental health issues
 - Hospital emergency centers are rapidly filling with mental health patients being held because of no place to send them for psychiatric care
 - 50% of ALL Americans will experience a mental health challenge in their lifetime
 - We is counterproductive to separate mental from physical health and expect to have a health community
 - We lacked advocacy leadership to expand community awareness
- The Taskforce was created as a result of the community health assessment

The Spartanburg County Behavioral Health Taskforce

- Taskforce membership is from all county agencies, organizations and programs with a vested interest in Behavioral Health as well as individuals with a demonstrated record of community involvement in these fields.
 - Tom Barnet – Chair
 - Heather Witt – Co-Chair
 - Otis Baughman, MD – Spartanburg Regional
 - Craig Burnette, PhD – Veteran Advocate
 - Jane Clemmer – New Day Clubhouse
 - Hon. Ray Eubanks, Jr – Drug Court Judge
 - Karen Fradua – SC Institute of Medicine and Public Health
 - Celesta Frum et al – Spartanburg Mental Health
 - Nancy Holland – Mental Health America/Spartanburg affiliate
 - Joyce Lipscomb – City of Spartanburg Public Safety

The Spartanburg County Behavioral Health Taskforce

- Taskforce membership is from all county agencies, organizations and programs with a vested interest in Behavioral Health as well as individuals with a demonstrated record of community involvement in these fields.
 - Elizabeth Martin, PhD – Westgate Family Therapy
 - Captain Tim Metz – Spartanburg County Uniform Patrol
 - Major Neal Urch et al – Spartanburg County Detention Center
 - Kathy Murphy et al – South Carolina Alcohol and Drug Abuse Center
 - Jennifer Parker - USC Upstate Center for Child Advocacy
 - Angela Robeson - Department of Social Services, Spartanburg Regional
 - Cary Rothschild - Access Health Spartanburg
 - Chris Steed – The Fullerton Foundation
 - Mary Miles, Penni Kucaba – Community Advocates

Strategy

- We seek to develop upstream strategies that address the behavioral health needs of our community in sustainable (bite-sized) pieces that realistically reflect both our financial resources and accessible professional competencies.
- Services are most effective if 1) addressed early, 2) not dependent on expensive, non-repeatable grants, and 3) accurately reflect the ability of the Spartanburg Community to intervene.

2014 Report

- 300 individuals were trained in SBIRT (Short, Brief Intervention for Referral and Treatment). This risk assessment interview technique is adaptable for issues such as depression, anger, drug, and alcohol use. It is highly effective in finding people with “at risk” drinking patterns and providing a way to improve. Trainee examples:
 - Hospital residents and faculty
 - Guidance counselors of local school districts
 - Members of local agencies and law enforcement

2014 Report

- Through a local grant the hospital's psychiatric holding area was changed from a crisis intervention area to one that is equipped to provide "safe, compassionate and therapeutic care".
- Westgate Family Therapy, a local non-profit counseling training center, has established unique counseling partnerships with the County Detention Center, at Middle Tyger Community Center, and at the Spartanburg Center for Family Medicine (residency) utilizing graduate students in needs of clinical practicum experience.
 - There are plans to extend this to local primary care physician offices of the SRMC physician network.

2014 Report

- Medical formulary sharing between the County Detention Center and the SRMC Emergency Room: Big outcome improvements as a result
 - Discovered: Arrested on Medicaid/established on meds: Lose Medicaid upon arrest. Upon release a minimum of 4 -6 wks. to get back on. Well Vista is not available for this population. Therefore no meds after release/no treatment.....and back in again. There is no fix for this one thus far. This “system” promotes recidivism.
- Re-established a local chapter of Mental Health America to lead local efforts to coordinate education and public awareness
- The Health Outcomes Program HOPS program enrolled 562 of 730 uninsured high-frequency ER users and partners with a wide-range of local safety net caregivers. The idea is to identify the mental issues before crisis stage

2014 Report

- Crisis Intervention Training based upon the Mental Health First Aid model for first responders is now established as a training protocol for the Spartanburg County Sheriff's Office field personnel
 - Kudos to Major Neal Urch in charge of the County Detention Center. He has – with no funds to speak of – initiated a library reading program for good behavior, brought in Westgate counseling as a training arena, coordinated formularies between jail and ER, and is sensitive to the fact that over half his prisoners needs psychiatric care. He leads our law enforcement behavioral health improvement efforts.
- Re-development of the AmeriCorps VISTA grant, providing support to 11 community agencies in their efforts around behavioral health, has enabled us to develop broader community impacts that target behavioral health.
 - The Corporation for National and Community Service is watching Spartanburg as this is a national model program and has NOT been attempted in any other community.
 - As one of many initiatives developed by the Americorps/VISTA group in Spartanburg is an Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) proposal for high-frequency ER users (HOPS again). Implementation in early 2015.

For 2015.....

- SBIRT training will continue throughout 2015 free of charge to any and all components of the community with an expansion to clergy and others providing faith-based services.
 - We were contacted by SAMHSA to discuss giving us support from the national office to expand our community training and for faith-based expansion. There is no other community doing community-wide SBIRT training anywhere in the US.
- A Directory of Services addressing local upstream and downstream initiatives/services will be available on line and through the United Way 2-1-1 system.

For 2015.....

- A pilot program “Community Companion” operated in partnership with the Spartanburg Housing Authority will be launched in the first quarter utilizing professional and lay volunteers. We identified and mobilized retired counselors to assist with this and similar community support operations. A variety of intervention and support services of individuals with disabilities and seniors – both vulnerable and at-risk populations – are planned. Once established the effort will be expanded to other vulnerable community segments.

For 2015.....

- Using a similar model to the “Community Companion” program, and using fellow veterans as mentors, we will begin a pilot program for veterans engaged in drug courts and with the probation system.
- To replace the critically-needed and now defunded Ray Eubanks Detox Center, the Taskforce is in partnership with SADAC to investigate the viability of implementing a medically-assisted detox program.

For 2015.....

- Telepsychiatry/Telemedicine services will be expanded to 6 community-based sites in the first half of the year and ultimately to ten sites by the end of 2015. This is a critical link to expand access to care and support for the primary care physicians that deliver the majority of mental health care in the US.

For 2015.....

- Partnering with the Spartanburg Department of Mental Health we will examine and work to expand the current capacity of an emergency “hotline. This is a new “Warm Line” that will allow individuals in our community who may see themselves developing a behavioral health crisis to receive support services 24/7.

For 2015.....

- We will continue our partnerships with the Detention Center, city and county police, and the local probation department to expand access to appropriate services to individuals with mental and behavioral health as a deterrent to committing future offenses.