

A Community-Wide Approach to Mental Health Services Planning and Policy Development

Lynda E. Frost, J.D., Ph.D.

Melissa Cook, J.D., L.M.S.W.

Hogg Foundation for Mental Health

The University of Texas at Austin

Susan Stone, J.D., M.D.

Susan Stone and Associates

Rosanky, Texas

Brief History

- June 11, 2002: Death of Sophia King
- Oct. 15, 2003: HF Community Forum
- Dec. 2003: Begin planning of Task Force
- Aug.-Dec. 2004: Task Force meetings
- Jan. 2005: Task Force report released
- Mar. 2005: Monitoring Committee appointed
- 2006: First Annual Report issued
- 2007: Second Annual Report issued

Mental Health Task Force Goals

- Identify the criteria that defines a mentally healthy community, including infrastructure, resources, policies, programs, training, and attitudes.
- Measure the status of each criterion in Austin/Travis County
- Develop an action plan to become a more mentally healthy community by building on Austin/Travis County's strengths and addressing any weaknesses

Task Force Critical Areas

- Education and community awareness
- Justice systems
- Housing
- Short- and long-term treatment

Monitoring Committee 2006 Focus Areas



MMHTF Monitoring Committee Planning and Policy Activities

- System Mapping
- Community Score Card
- Comprehensive Housing Plan
- National GAINS Center Pilot Site
- National Inst. on Corrections Learning Site
- Outpatient Restoration Pilot Project

Lessons Learned

- Helpful to have community concern
- Must include all stakeholders
- Identifying gaps and duplications in services focuses efforts
- Good group facilitation and leadership is essential
- Educational function is easy to underestimate
- Need strong feedback loop with community
- Must institutionalize the process

Thank you for your interest!

For more information:

www.mmhtfmc.org

lynda.frost@austin.utexas.edu