

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
REGENTS COMMUNICATION

ACTION REQUEST

Approved by the Regents

April 17, 2008

Subject: University of Michigan Health System (UMHS)
Washtenaw Community Health Organization (WCHO)
Re-appointment to the WCHO Board of Directors

Action
Requested: Approval

Background:

The WCHO is a governmental organization created by the University of Michigan Board of Regents and the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners under the Urban Cooperation Act to provide integrated health care to Medicaid and indigent consumers in Washtenaw County. The Regents and the County Commissioners are each responsible for appointing six members to the WCHO Board of Directors.

The WCHO strives to contribute to all of the Health System's goals and objectives and to be a resource for education and research to all schools within the University. Psychiatric residents and allied health professionals are very positive about the field training they receive in the different WCHO settings. The WCHO training of medical students has been the highest rated rotation in mental health.

The WCHO has a goal to develop new models of integrated health care which can assist the MDCH in improving services to Medicaid consumers and to be a national model. A project with the MDCH provides assistance to six agencies to implement integrated health services. Nationally the WCHO is providing consultation to 52 different agencies or states to implement integrated health programs. Working with the National Council for Community Behavioral Health, the WCHO has organized a Learning Collaborative to assist agencies in developing integrated health programs. The WCHO's electronic medical record has also received state and national recognition. Last year this electronic medical record was implemented in several CMH agencies in Michigan. Staff are also working with several states who are interested using it. Evidence-based Practice, (EBP) models of care have been implemented in a cost-effective manner. WCHO's programs have received state and national recognition during the past year. Within the state, the WCHO is providing training and leadership in assisting other CMH agencies in implementing the McFarland evidenced based model of care.


Proposed re-appointments to WCHO Board of Directors for the term April 1, 2008-March 31, 2011:

Mr. Saul Cooper served as the Washtenaw County Community Mental Health director for many years. During that period he held a courtesy appointment with the Department of Psychiatry and worked closely in developing clinical and educational programs with the UMHS. He has brought that expertise to the WCHO Board and currently serves as treasurer.

Dr. Jerry Walden established and directed the Packard Clinic until his retirement last year. He is well known in the community for his commitment to serve Medicaid and indigent consumers. Dr. Walden worked closely with the WCHO in establishing the integrated health model at the Packard Clinic. His knowledge of providing physical health care is very valuable to the Board.

I recommend that the Regents approve the re-appointments of the above named individuals to the Board of Directors of the Washtenaw Community Health Organization for the term April 1, 2008-March 31, 2011.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert P. Kelch
Executive Vice President
for Medical Affairs