

**Psychiatrists Leadership and Advocacy Group (PLAG)
Minutes from 1/7/15 Meeting**

Members Present – Child and Family Guidance, LifeNet, Lakes Regional MHMR, Green Oaks Hospital, VA, NTSPP

The PLAG meeting was hosted by Green Oaks Hospital

NorthSTAR Indigent Pharmacy Network

- Discussed changes to the NorthSTAR indigent pharmacy network that went into effect on January 1, 2015.
- These changes included the addition of all Kroger and Walmart pharmacy locations within the seven county NorthSTAR service area. Although this increases access in some cases, it was reported that these changes also made it more difficult for smaller independent and in-house pharmacies to remain viable.
- It was reported that Qol meds which has locations within LifeNet and Adapt is no longer included in the indigent pharmacy network after unsuccessful negotiations with ValueOptions.
- The PLAG cited benefits of smaller, in-house pharmacies such as better service, less mistakes, focus on psychiatric medications, providing bubble packs, knowledge of the patients and communication with SPN physicians and staff.
- It was also noted that the location of a pharmacy within the SPN is important as many members experience transportation barriers. It was reported that now the closest pharmacy location to LifeNet is over 3.5 miles from the clinic. This may present challenges for those using Medicaid transportation services or public transportation.
- It was also noted that although there are many benefits to the in-house pharmacy, patients and staff at clinics without one seem to manage under those circumstances.
- It was suggested that the physicians track events related to pharmacy network changes over the next 1-2 months in order to assess impact.
- The group also discussed barriers to patients getting their prescriptions filled upon discharge from community hospitals. It was suggested that Green Oaks look into the possibility of working with a pharmacy that would provide delivery of medications for individuals discharging from inpatient care.

Agenda for 2015

- The group began discussing the agenda and focus for 2015.
- Discussed Sunset Commission Report's recommendations for NorthSTAR and potential changes to the local public mental health system over the next couple of years.

Green Oaks Hospital Overview and Tour

- Dr. Butler provided the group with an overview of Green Oaks Hospital and a tour that included both Psychiatric Emergency Services and Inpatient Services.