

County of Financial Responsibility (COFR) Dispute Resolution Committee - Case 2008-2

Committee:	Doug Ward	Community Mental Health for Central Michigan
	Chuck Kopinski	West Michigan Community Mental Health (alternate)
	Cindy Lowe	Kalamazoo Community Mental Health
	Mark Kielhorn	Department of Community Health

The Committee met via conference call on September 5, 2008 concerning a dispute between two adjoining county CMHSP's. CMHSP representatives from the two counties participated to explain the case and the rationale for each CMHSP's position.

Issue: An individual was admitted to a hospital in County A in the middle of the night on 10/11/07 based on a pre-screen by County A CMHSP. The pre-screener gave the hospital a 24-hour authorization. The next day County A recognized that the individual was only staying in a hotel and was a resident of County B. At this point County A decided not to give the hospital a formal authorization and communicated to the hospital that the person was a resident of County B. County A says that the COFR should be based on residency in County B.

County B says that County A did not follow its normal protocol and inform County B of the admission, nor did the hospital. County B was not informed of the admission until 10/18/07, the day before the person was discharged. County B contended that this was not a COFR issue. Since they did not authorize the admission, they were not responsible for the costs.

Resolution: Under residency rules, County B is the COFR. One of the underlying COFR principles is that appropriate services should be provided "without delay resulting from issues of financial responsibility." Pre-authorization is not required. However, County A agreed that they should have communicated the admission immediately based on their own protocol. Had County B been notified at admission time, they might have had reason to pursue an earlier discharge. The two counties agreed to share equally the \$4,480 cost of the hospital stay.