

Mental Health Connection Board Meeting January 29, 2007

Attendees: Susan Garnett, Wayne Carson, Stacie York, Jim McDermott, Pat Cheong, Joe Burkett, Joan Barcellona, Barbara Lamsens, Chuck Hoffman, and Patsy Thomas

The meeting was called to order by Susan Garnett. A quorum was not present, so the meeting proceeded for information only, with no action being taken.

December 2006 Minutes

Approval of minutes was deferred due to a lack of quorum.

Committee Reports

Finance Committee

The financial report for January-December 2006 was discussed. MHC is still awaiting receipt of \$20,000 from DSHS. These are funds associated with the Fine Line exhibit. MHC provided a final report to the state, and the state requested additional information. Approval of financials was deferred because of a lack of quorum.

The proposed 2007 budget was discussed. Wayne Carson moved approval of the budget with a change in the amount budgeted for telephone (\$3,000 to \$3,500) and a change in the amount budgeted for Internet access (\$800 to \$1,000), changing total expenses for 2007 to \$175,054. The motion was seconded by Barbara Lamsens. Those present voted in favor of the motion. An e-mail ballot will be sent out to the board members not in attendance, and the results will determine whether the motion passes.

Sustainability Committee

The Strategic Plan was discussed. Approval of the plan was deferred because of a lack of quorum.

There will be a meeting on Feb. 20, 2007, to discuss the planned Symposium scheduled for June 2007. The meeting will be at All Church Home from 4 to 6 p.m. Targeted audiences for the meeting will be executives of MHC agencies, board members and key staff. The meeting is intended to introduce agency representatives to the Symposium and its goals.

Discussion was held on The Texas Health Institute and its Request for Application. Tarrant County is applying for the grant and, if awarded, will name MHC as the lead agency. If received, the grant will assist Tarrant County in developing mechanisms to use information technology to improve the customer service experience of Tarrant County residents receiving mental health services from member agencies.

Advocacy Committee

Jim McDermott, Chair, reported on the Nov. 27 luncheon. The luncheon was attended by about 150 people, including legislators and community leaders. Judge Whitley and Mayors Moncrief and Cluck are convening a Blue Ribbon Committee to address mental health issues in the workplace.

The next Advocacy Committee meeting will be held on Feb. 13 at 4 p.m. in the MHMR Board room. That meeting will address three issues: HB1518, proposed cuts in Medicare and Medicaid funding, and proposed cuts to prevention programs funded by DFPS. Tracy Tucker will be coming to the Feb. meeting to discuss the Medicare and Medicaid funding issues. Representatives from local hospitals have been invited for the discussion. If necessary, the Advocacy Committee will draft a position for MHC.

Membership Committee

Barbara Lamsens, Chair, reported the next meeting will be Feb. 1.

First Methodist Church has joined MHC.

Reminder: The March meeting will be March 5 at the Botanic Garden. MHC will honor the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History with the Kenneth Barr Award for the museum's exemplary contributions to the mental health community through its support of the Fine Line exhibit.

Social Marketing Committee

The report was deferred to the next meeting.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

Joan Barcellona raised a concern that, for people seeking crisis assistance for a loved one, it is difficult to find the right resource in the phone book. After discussion, the issue was referred to the Advocacy Committee.

The meeting adjourned at 5:20 pm.