

Minutes of the Mental Health Connection Board Meeting

January 30, 2008

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Mental Health Connection Board was convened in the MHMR Board Room at 4 p.m. on January 30, 2008.

Attendees: Susan Garnett, Chair, Patsy Thomas, Executive Director, and members Joan Barcellona, Dr. Joe Burkett, Wayne Carson, Pat Cheong, Pam Davis, Jennifer Gilley, Mollie Kuchta, Jim McDermott, Heather Reynolds, Cynthia West, and Lyn Willis.

Susan Garnett, Chairman, called the meeting to order. The first item of business was approval of the minutes of the September 26th, 2007, meeting by consensus.

Standing Committee Reports

A. Finance Committee - Jennifer gave the Finance Committee report and also presented the FY 2008 budget request. Projected costs for the required audit increased for 2008. Upon the motion of Lyn Willis, with a second by Cynthia West, the Operating Budget was unanimously approved.

B. Membership: In the absence of Barbara Lamsens, chair, Patsy reported that the February general membership meeting will feature a presentation on the new Family Drug Court by Judge Jean Boyd and John Haenes, COO for Tarrant County Challenge. The March general membership meeting will be at Cook Children's Hospital instead of the Juvenile Department due to scheduling conflicts.

C. Social Marketing: Heather Reynolds, chair, reported on the committee's work on a logo and "branding" for MHC that hopes to feature the "No Wrong Door" theme as well as incorporating the Bridging the Gap logo. There have been many compliments on that logo. The Board should watch for more recommendations for branding utilizing these themes to come forward in the near future.

D. Advocacy Committee – Jim McDermott, chair, reported that the committee has a meeting scheduled for February 21st. The purpose is to begin organizing for next legislative session. The committee will review the Blue Ribbon Committee recommendations that might need legislative actions as well as other issues that have been sent to committee members for input.

E. Bridging the Gap – Wayne Carson, chair, reported on the efforts of Learning Communities to support developing leadership and sustainability of EBPs. MHC will be looking for ways to support implementation initiatives undertaken by agencies. There will be a proposal protocol developed and MHC will provide feedback on agency proposals. Post-symposium learning opportunities are also being discussed. One particular area of expertise includes cost effectiveness.

Old Business

A. Update on Legal Issues of Non-Profit Status: Patsy updated the Board regarding recent work by retained legal counsel working on clarification of MHC's non-profit status. Patsy feels that the cost will be less than previously approved, probably around \$2500. Once this work is completed, approval of by-laws revisions can move forward.

B. State Transformation Grant update: Patsy attended a workshop meeting in Austin recently, now that administration of the STG has been transferred to MHC from Tarrant County. She expressed concerns about the rigidity of funding guidelines and mentioned that other grantees found the guidelines burdensome as well. The STG will provide opportunities for participation in TWG. We should begin considering other technology innovations that we might be able to fund under this grant, such as hiring our own consultant to implement CSMIS; enhance CSMIS; how might CSMIS be engineered to interface with other CS players, such as Juvenile Services; opportunities to form relationships with other entities, etc.

C. CSMIS report was given by Patsy Thomas, in the absence of Sherwyn Daryani. Patsy reported that the SEG has made inadequate progress on addressing MIS concerns in the last 10-12 weeks and have not regularly returned her communication overtures. The lead Project Manager for our project has left SEG. Patsy does not feel that we have received value for our contract payment of \$11,550 and recommended that we contract with a new consultant on an hourly basis. Catholic Charities has a meeting scheduled with SEG in February and will decide what they want to do. FWISD will work with its own IT staff to create interface with provider partners. Patsy will confirm SEG's meeting with LPH.

D. SAMHSA Grant Renewal update was reported by Patsy. Susan indicated the grant application should have been submitted on January 30. The state did not apply and gave endorsement to Tarrant County's application. We have applied for funding for a multi-county project aimed at seriously emotionally disturbed children 0 to 6 years of age. Target children may not be residents of current service area. Jim McDermott said he would coordinate conversations to try to continue wraparound facilities currently funded under the existing grant for the benefit of the community.

E. Michael Garcia's visit went very well. He visited a Family Resource Center and Cook Children's Hospital, and we've had some grant correspondence with his office. Patsy said she will seek his endorsement for our SAMHSA grant application.

New Business

A. CRCG Update/Request: Vicki Warren and Allison Giles made a presentation about CRCG (Community Resource Coordinating Group) and asked if MHC would be willing to serve as a fiscal sponsor for CRCG to allow CRCG to apply for and raise its own funds and expend them for things like respite care, transportation support, summer camps, and attendant care. Board members expressed some reservations based on setting a precedent, the expense involved and possible conflict of interest between MHC and CRCG over fund-raising. While we are in the business of supporting collaborations, such as CRCG, there is a downside on the funding issues. This item will be discussed in greater depth at the Strategic Planning Retreat on Feb. 29th. Patsy asked CRCG representatives to provide a brief written proposal of what they wanted to do. Susan suggested we might assist by finding other agencies with which they could partner.

B. Implementation Planning Retreat: Patsy announced that representatives of MHC sponsoring organizations will be asked to participate in a planning retreat for 2008 on February 29th, 2008, regarding the future of the collaboration.

C. Future meeting dates: The next Board meeting will be on March 26th.

D. Announcements: Pam Davis and other consumer partners have been working to establish a collaboration of consumer groups loosely under an umbrella of "Family Connection Groups."

Susan Ferrari, CPS Lead Program Director, has asked for a seat on the MHC Board. Linda Hernandez will most likely represent her at meetings.

Pat Cheong will make a report to MHC on the Abuse/Neglect Task Force.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lyn Willis
Secretary