

## **Minutes of the Mental Health Connection Board Meeting July 25, 2007**

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Mental Health Connection Board was convened in the MHMR Board Room at 4 p.m. on July 25, 2007.

**Attendees:** Susan Garnett, Chair, Joan Barcellona, Vice-Chair, Patsy Thomas, Executive Director, and members Wayne Carson, Pat Cheong, Jennifer Gilley, Barbara Lamsens, Susanne Luebke, Jim McDermott, Dr. Alan Podawiltz, Heather Reynolds, Lyn Willis, and Stacie York. Sherwyn Daryani was present representing Community Solutions.

Susan Garnett, Chairman, noted the absence of a quorum and deferred calling the meeting to order. Barbara Lamsens suggested that the Board, through a committee, may want to review its by-laws with regard to obtaining required and timely member input.

### **Standing Committee Reports**

#### **Finance Committee**

Patsy gave the Finance Committee report, in the absence of chairman Jennifer Gilley. She reported that we are on target with revenues and expenditures. The audit issues raised at the last meeting have been resolved. MHMR can offer MHC the use of their hotline. They will give Patsy the information and she will bring forward a recommended solution.

#### **Sustainability Committee**

Susanne reported that there was not really any activity to report.

#### **Advocacy Committee**

1) Update on Blue Ribbon Committee – Jim McDermott announced that the second meeting with business leaders is scheduled to take place on July 27<sup>th</sup>. The topic to be discussed is mental health awareness among industries and business, and what is being done to recognize mental and substance abuse in the workplace. Results will be reported at the next meeting. The goal continues to be a written report for use by leaders in Fort Worth, Arlington and Tarrant County Commissioners Court.

2) Legislative – Jim reported that the legislative session ended with some accomplishments and that most issues got addressed more positively than negatively. Funding for crisis services was allocated, which will be utilized according to the national model and state guidelines. Lyn Willis reported on legislative action impacting juvenile services (no misdemeanor offenders may be committed to TYC and mandatory referrals to JJAEP were broadened) and Wayne Carson reported on CPS legislation (privatization mostly abolished, some child placing agencies closed, funding increased for at-risk and prevention programs).

Wayne and Patsy reported on their recent Washington, D.C., trip to meet with Katherine Powers at the Center for Mental Health Services. Apparently they were very impressed with our work through Community Solutions and the Learning Communities. Information about new funding opportunities was gathered. The group also met with David Morrisett at SAMHSA regarding knowledge dissemination grants.

#### **Membership**

Barbara Lamsens, chair, announced that there was no membership report to give.

A quorum was declared by the chair and the meeting was called to order by Susan Garnett, chair.

The first item of business was approval of the minutes of the March 28, 2007 and May 30, 2007, meeting. Upon the motion of Dr. Podawiltz, with a second by Barbara Lamsens, the minutes were unanimously approved as prepared.

Finance reports were unanimously approved on the motion of Jim McDermott, with a second by Dr. Podawiltz.

### **Old Business**

A. Patsy gave an update on ***Bridging the Gap***, saying that the evaluations by 209 attendees were very positive. Participating agencies and organizations have been generous to volunteer their staffs for the Learning Community meetings. Attendees and participants have been engaged and well prepared.

B. State transformation grant update – Patsy said that a site has been named for a conference in August, at which we will present work of MHC and hear about work in other communities.

C. DSHS – our grant application for future funding was denied because it was felt we deviated from the intent of the earlier grant, which funded the Fine Line Exhibit.

D. Dr. Podawiltz gave an update regarding the successful recent decision to add 16 adult psychiatric beds at JPS set to open August 6.

### **New Business**

A. Sherwyn reported a request to contract with the Solomon Edwards Group for building a bridge between CS programming and organizational consumers. The cost would be approximately \$36,000 - \$40,000. Upon the motion of Lyn Willis, with a second by Susanne Luebke, the motion was unanimously approved.

B. Community Solutions is in Year 6, currently serving 86 clients, which is full capacity for the program. If TANF funding is lost, this will require reducing program numbers by 30 clients. There will be an emergency meeting on 7/30 to strategize. There is a remaining issue of concern about sustainability for wraparound services. Perhaps an area of activity for the Advocacy Committee would be to seek special project funding from the legislature.

Patsy announced that the new director for regional HHS is Michael Garcia, and suggested that MHC invite him for a Board meeting to meet him. She also gave an update on Veterans' Services, after a recent meeting with Kay Granger to discuss improving services to veterans by contracting with local providers, following completion of the new facility.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lyn Willis  
Secretary