

# **Minutes of the Mental Health Connection Board Meeting**

## **March 28, 2007**

**Attendees:** Susan Garnett, Joan Barcellona, Patsy Thomas, Ted Blevins, Wayne Carson, Pat Cheong, Jennifer Gilley, Chuck Hoffman, Barbara Lamsens, Dr. Alan Podawitz, Lyn Willis, and Stacie York. Sherwyn Daryani was present representing Community Solutions.

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Mental Health Connection Board was convened in the MHMR Board Room at 4 p.m. on March 28, 2007.

Susan Garnett, Chairman, noted the absence of a quorum and deferred calling the meeting to order.

### **Blue Ribbon Committee**

Patsy Thomas reported the Blue Ribbon Committee now has corporate leaders representing approximately 25 different companies. The committee will meet at Alcon on April 11. The meeting will educate attendees on MH issues and parity, and the companies will be asked to provide information about their insurance benefits. During a July meeting at UTA, committee members will focus on workforce issues and solicit input for successful workplace strategies. In September, Kay Granger will facilitate a discussion with Lockheed about parity. In December, a report will be prepared on what has been learned, with recommendations about how to educate workplaces on mental health. MHC needs health benefits stories that illustrate these various issues.

### **Medicaid meeting with Tracy Tucker**

Position papers have been prepared and sent to the Tarrant County legislative delegation to outline the potential impact of Medicaid changes.

### **Quorum**

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

### **Minutes**

Upon the motion of Dr. Alan Podawitz, with a second by Barbara Lamsens, the minutes for the October 25, 2006, meeting and the January 29, 2007, meeting were unanimously approved as prepared.

### **Standing Committee Reports**

#### **Finance**

Susan Garnett reported that, after electronic voting, the budget for the new fiscal year was approved.

Angela Wilcox, manager of Hartman, Leito and Bolt, presented the 2006 audit. Ms. Wilcox indicated that the audit results reflected sound operations. There was brief discussion concerning a counterclaim filed by MHC against a website design company in a Dallas JP court regarding non-performance, which is still pending. Dr. Podawitz moved to accept the report, with a second from Joan Barcellona. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion. Jennifer Gilley presented the financial report for January-February, 2007, indicating that financial statements appear to be in good order. Upon the motion of Pat Cheong, with a second by Lyn Willis, the report was unanimously approved.

#### **Sustainability**

Patsy Thomas requested approval of the 2007 strategic plan, outlined at the recent annual meeting. Wayne Carson moved and Dr. Podawitz seconded to approve the Strategic Plan. The Board voted unanimously to approve the plan.

Patsy announced that Tarrant County has been selected for a \$50,000 mental health transformation grant, with the funds to be used for consultation to create IT links among MH providers. Another focus of the grant (no funding) will be building community collaboration around mental health. Tarrant County will be the fiscal agent for the grant, and will subcontract with MHC to implement the project. This contract had been reviewed and approved by Susan Garnett and Patsy Thomas. Upon the motion of Dr. Podawitz, with a second by Barbara Lamsens, the Board approved acceptance of the grant.

Ted Blevins announced the first-time allocation of funding in the FPS budget for support of local services to prevent children from going into the care of CPS. Tarrant County, in partnership with Community Solutions, applied for \$2 million over a two-year period for local efforts. Availability is expected to be 6/1/07. A major focus will be reduction of disproportionate minority children. One impact of this funding will be expansion of Community Solutions services countywide.

### **Membership**

Barbara Lamsens, chair, announced that the April membership meeting will focus on planning for the symposium, and the May meeting will offer training.

### **Old Business:**

#### **Symposium**

Patsy gave an update on planning for the symposium. Lee LeGrice is chairing the planning group for the symposium. During Year 1, the focus will be on creating a community of excellence for children and adolescents. Invitations will be out soon. TCU is offering the space. The registration fee of \$75 will underwrite consumers who wish to attend. Opportunities will be offered at the April MHC membership meeting for individuals to sign up for Learning Communities.

#### **Adult Services**

MHMR has been approached to provide adult day services and is unsure of the need for that service in our community. Sonja Gaines will facilitate group discussion of this topic with interested volunteers from MHC and the larger community. Please send names of those willing to participate to Susan Garnett.

### **New Business**

#### **Legal Issues**

The Board discussed a recommended practice in the audit report for employees to have a mechanism for reporting suspected fraud or abuse. The suggestion was made to contact the auditor for further information on resources to comply with this requirement. The Presidium organization was suggested as an organization credentialed and licensed to perform this service.

#### **Additional Beds at JPS**

Dr. Podawitz discussed his concerns about Tarrant County's over-utilization of state hospital beds, resulting in a majority of local resources being dedicated to forensic purposes. There is a need for additional non-forensic beds, and there are issues regarding who should fund any expansion of services. The community also lacks after-care services for patients released from short-term local care. There is good news about increased capacity for adolescent short-term care.

With no further business, Chuck Hoffman moved and Dr. Podawitz seconded adjournment. The Board approved and the meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.