

Mental Health Connection Board Meeting May 30, 2007

Attendees: Susan Garnett, Pat Cheong, Jennifer Gilley, Barbara Lamsens, Judge Brent Carr, Dr. Joe Burkett, Joan Barcellona, Pamela Davis, Heather Reynolds, and staff member Patsy Thomas. Sherwin Daryani was present representing Community Solutions. Donna Martin was present as a guest.

The meeting was convened at 4:10 pm.

Minutes

Since a quorum was not present, the minutes were presented for information only.

Committee Reports

Finance Committee

Jennifer Gilley presented the Finance Report for information only because a quorum was not present. The financial report showed income exceeding expenses, with \$352,042 in total assets. The Board discussed the recommendation from the external audit that MHC develop a strategy to handle allegations of non-compliance. Members discussed the potential use of the MHMR telephone compliance line. Donna Martin and Susan Garnett will explore any barriers to the use of the MHMR 800 line, with the MHMR compliance officer making recommendations to the MHC regarding any calls received. They will report back to the board.

Advocacy Committee

In the absence of Jim McDermott, Patsy Thomas reported on the Advocacy Committee's activities. The Blue Ribbon Committee has held one meeting and has three additional meetings scheduled. Patsy is working with the office of Rep. Kay Granger to have Rep. Granger participate in the group's third meeting. The final meeting will be held on December 3 at City Club.

Patsy reported on the JPS focus group she coordinated with the consultants who are developing a new five-year strategic plan for JPS. The focus group drew approximately 50 participants. Those who attended spoke about their desire to ensure that JPS plays a key role in maintaining a community continuum of care for Tarrant County residents with mental health needs. Patsy reported that, during the focus group, Ron Stutes of JPS announced the hospital will be adding an additional 16 adult psychiatric beds this summer.

Membership Committee

Barbara Lamsems detailed the programs for the next two general membership meeting.

Old Business

Symposium

Patsy reported on the upcoming Symposium that MHC has organized in conjunction with TCU and Lena Pope Home. Currently, over 200 participants have registered to attend.

Adult Services

The report on Adult Day Services was deferred until the next Board meeting because the sub-group meeting was cancelled.

Legal Issues

Patsy updated the Board on the status of the lawsuit by Zunch Corp., reporting that Zunch has dropped the lawsuit and all requests for fees.

Tarrant Transformation Project

Patsy and Susan reported that a proposal for the Tarrant Transformation Project, which was developed with MHC and submitted by Tarrant County, has been funded by the Texas Health Institute. Tarrant County is currently awaiting a contract from the Texas Health Institute, and the county will then contract with MHC.

DSHS Funds

Patsy reported that she has completed the application to the Texas Department of State Health Services for a renewal of state funds for the coming fiscal year (commencing September 1, 2007). She will keep the Board informed on the results of that application.

New Business

Patsy reported on a recent meeting she had with Rep. Kay Granger, during which they discussed issues concerning veterans and mental health care. Rep. Granger has expressed an interest in receiving additional information about the status of these needs in our community. There was general discussion about the services currently available and the service gaps MHC members have identified. Patsy will continue to apprise the Board as information becomes available.

Patsy informed the Board that she has received a request from the City of Ft. Worth to coordinate a meeting of mental health and substance abuse providers to discuss homelessness issues. That meeting is scheduled for June 6, 2007, at the MHMR building.

Sherwin Daryani requested that MHC consider entering into a contract with the Edwards Group, which will manage the implementation phase of taking the CS/MIS system live in September. Following discussion, the Board members present recommended that the request be received favorably and the contract be developed.

Heather Reynolds reported on new statistics regarding immigrants in Tarrant County and advised the board to consider the impact on the mental health system. Heather will send the report to Patsy, who will forward it to board members.

Judge Carr asked that the Bylaws be reviewed to determine whether board members absent from meetings can be polled to vote on matters requiring board approval. Consideration should be given to the legality of electronic voting as Bylaws changes are reviewed.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:20 pm.