

# **Minutes of the Mental Health Connection Board Meeting November 14, 2007**

A called meeting of the Mental Health Connection Board was convened in the LPH Training Center at 7:30 a.m. on November 14, 2007.

**Attendees:** Susan Garnett, Chair, Patsy Thomas, Executive Director, and members Kay Barkin, Ted Blevins, Dr. Joe Burkett, Wayne Carson, Judge Brent Carr, Pat Cheong, Pam Davis, Jennifer Gilley, Chuck Hoffman, Mollie Kuchta, Barbara Lamsens, Susanne Luebke, Dan Reimer, Heather Reynolds, Lyn Willis, and Stacie York. Sherwyn Daryani was present representing Community Solutions.

Susan Garnett, Chairman, called the meeting to order and asked Patsy Thomas to present the agenda items.

## **By-law Revisions**

The first item was a request to approve funds for legal fees, allowing Patsy to work with attorneys to review our by-law revisions and ensure that we are in compliance with governing statutes for 501.3 (c) organizations. Jennifer Gilley made a motion to provide funding in an amount not to exceed \$9,000 for the support of legal services to review our by-law revisions. With a second by Barbara Lamsens, the motion passed unanimously.

Patsy noted that the necessity of a legal review of by-law revisions lasting perhaps several months will result in a delay of our ability to seek membership approval of new officers for 2008. Upon the motion of Pat Cheong, with a second by Barbara Lamsens, the Board unanimously approved a resolution to recommend to general membership that current terms be extended until the legal review was completed.

## **State Transformation Grant**

Patsy proposed that the Board consider an action to extend the contract with Texas Health Institute to receive additional funds to accomplish state transformation grant technology objectives, which were imposed following our original proposal to fund the learning communities. Additionally, Patsy proposed that the Board consider authorizing her to negotiate a rewrite of our deliverables under the grant to conform to our activities for FY 2008. Following discussion, in separate actions, Dr. Burkett moved to approve an extension of the FY 2007 contract to include September through November, 2007, with a second of the motion by Pat Cheong. The Board unanimously approved the motion. Susanne Luebke then moved on behalf of the Board to authorize Patsy to enter into negotiations with THI to establish new objectives for FY 2008 and ask that MHC be designated as the recipient of funds. With a second by Wayne Carson, the motion was unanimously approved.

## **Update on CS MIS and consideration of Solomon Edwards Group Contract**

Patsy brought forward two actions for the Board to consider:

- 1). A renewal of the sustainability agreement between MHC and Community Solutions/CFW;
- 2). Acceptance of a proposal from the Solomon Edwards group to work with MHC to assure that IT/MIS concerns will be addressed.

Following discussion, in separate actions, Mollie Kuchta moved in favor of authorizing MHC to enter into negotiations with SEG to contract for management of the CS/MIS It activities. With a second by Pat Cheong, the Board unanimously approved the motion. Next, Judge Carr moved in favor of the Board's approval to renew its contract for sustainability with CFW/Community Solutions. With a second by Mollie Kuchta, the Board unanimously approved the motion.

## **Other Business**

A. Patsy announced that she has arranged with Michael Garcia (new regional HHS director) to come to Cook Children's Hospital Fort Worth on November 28 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. CCH will host the event. A tour of the Family Resource Centers will be included.

B. MHC is exploring a new SAMHSA grant application to expand the service area of Community Solutions. The lead applicant would be MHMR's ECI program, which targets intervention with younger children and serves multiple counties. It may not provide services in the current CS service area.

- C. A retreat for member agency executives is being planned for 2008. Dates are being explored, and Patsy will present more information as it is developed.
- D. Appointment of an executive committee to conduct time-sensitive business on behalf of the Board in between meetings was requested. Upon the motion of Barbara Lamsens, with a second by Stacey York, an executive committee comprised of MHC Board officers plus two members (Wayne Carson and Dr. Alan Podawiltz) was approved by unanimous vote.
- E. Patsy proposed to cancel the next regularly scheduled Board meeting and proposed to maintain an option to finalize the SEG contract on November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2007, at CCH.

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned by Susan Garnett.