

Minutes of the Mental Health Connection Board Meeting October 1, 2009, 3 p.m.

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Mental Health Connection Board of Directors was convened at 3 p.m. in the MHMRTC Board Room at 3 p.m. on October 1, 2009.

Attendees: Kay Barkin, Wayne Carson, Donna Davis, Susan Garnett, Mahie Ghoraishi, Ginny Hickman, Lee LeGrice, Kris Painter, Sherri Pratt, Michael Steinert, Patsy Thomas, Lyn Willis, Tamra Walker, Shawn Curtis

Susan Garnett called the meeting to order at The meeting was called to order by Susan Garnett, Chair.

The minutes from the June meeting were reviewed. The minutes were approved.

Committee Reports

- A. Technology Committee – Tamra Walker of Solomon Edwards Group reported that 287 referrals were made through DataLink since January. The Arlington Police Department, Fort Worth Police Department, Safe Haven of Tarrant County and The Women’s Center will be trained by John Hopkins on October 19. They will all go live on November 2, 2009. Last year, the Arlington Police Department had over 13,000 referrals through the Victims Assistance Group, so it is expected that there will be over 1,000 referrals a month. The Fort Worth Police Department had over 20,000 referrals from its Victims Assistance Group, and it is expected that there will be over 1,200 referrals a month. Safe Haven will only be able to receive referrals due to issues with its funding.

The Community Solutions grant was closed out this past week, and additional money was secured to help approximately five additional agencies to come on board. The goal is to bring them on board within the next 90 days.

Hand in Hand has a training scheduled for next week with John Hopkins, and the facilitators will go live on October 19.

Within the next 90 days, DataLink and HMIS (Homeless Management Information System) will conduct a pilot of the federated model.

MOUs will be sent to all current agencies with an invoice for the next year’s fees.

Pam Beach, an attorney with expertise in privacy laws, may be able to come to Tarrant County in January to discuss the new HIPAA regulations. She helped DataLink set up its HIPAA compliance initially. There was discussion about a date, and some suggested she give a general presentation at the regular Mental Health Connection meeting, with a workshop following.

- B. Finance Committee – Ginny Hickman, Treasurer, shared the Financial Report for January – August 2009 with the Board. The Finance Committee recommended that the report be filed for audit.

The Finance Committee, met August 26 and also by phone this week to finalize the Financial Policies for Mental Health Connection. Because of computer problems, the corrected policies were not complete in time for the Board meeting; however, when corrections are made, they will be sent to the Board for approval. Members of the Finance Committee are Chuck Hoffman, Nancy Hagan, Jennifer Gilley and Ginny Hickman. Patsy Thomas also attends the meetings.

The finance committee had asked Patsy to get additional bids from other firms for the 2009 audit. Of the five firms contacted, two were too busy to take on another agency at this time. The firms who gave estimates are Rylander, Clay & Opitz, Weaver and Tidwell, and Hartman, Leito & Bolt. There was quite a variance in the bids, and the committee recommended staying with Hartman, Leito & Bolt this year since their bid came in well under the other firms. A committee member has recommended that we change to another firm next year if we think that we will be receiving additional federal grants because grants generally require a change in firms every three years. The committee recommends staying with Hartman, Leito & Bolt, and Lyn Willis seconded the motion. The board approved the 2009 audit firm.

- C. Social Marking Committee – Kay Barkin said the Committee is working on the last draft of the Social Marking plan for the next five years. The monthly newsletter is very successful, and we are receiving good comments about it. This is the 10-year anniversary of Mental Health Connection, and plans are underway to chronicle a time line of events, systemic information, funding that has been brought into the community as a result of collaborative efforts.
- D. Membership Committee – Sherri Pratt reported that the October 12 Mental Health Connection meeting will be held at The Women’s Center. The program will include a cultural competency update from Virginia Hoft and a Stay on TRAC update from Greg Sumpter. The final report on Community Solutions will be presented at the November meeting. Instead of holding a regular meeting in December, the Membership Committee is suggesting we have a party.
- E. Education Committee – Lee LeGrice
Kris Painter reported that the 2009 Bridging the Gap Symposium Committee met for the last time last week. All speakers are in place, the brochures have been mailed and people are beginning to send in their registration forms. The Symposium will begin with a community panel that will set the stage by discussing the current status of childhood mental health in our community. The panel includes Vicki Warren of Fort Worth ISD who will speak on what is happening in our schools; Lisa Black, regional director for CPS; Nancy Cychol with Cook Children’s who will focus on the medical aspects; and Kathy Adams of Child Care Licensing with the Department of Protective and Regulatory Services who will discuss childcare issues. Bob Ray Sanders of the Fort Worth Star Telegram will facilitate the discussion and ask the panel pre-determined questions. On the second day of the Symposium, there will be a session on “Hot Topics: What Pushes Your Button”. 4 Day Weekend will be at the Symposium both days to introduce speakers and keep the program flowing smoothly.

- F. Implementation Teams – Wayne Carson announced that the Substance Abuse Implementation Team will start the Stay On TRAC program in January at Keller ISD.

The Trauma Implementation Team has 71 of the 75 slots filled for the national study, and the deadline has been extended allowing the remaining four spaces to be filled. Mental Health Connection did not receive the trauma grant it had applied for.

The Cultural Competency retreat at Garrett Creek Ranch still has spaces available to those who would like to attend.

The Autism Implementation Team has developed a partnership with Cook Children's, which has agreed to reimburse all physicians in its network who use MCHAT screening for autism. The Team is also looking into forming a navigator advocate position to help families who have a child who has been diagnosed with early signs of autism.

- G. Research – Michael Steinert reported that the Research Council will meet for the last time this year next week. Council members were asked to commit to meet for one year. Between 10 and 25 people attended each of the four Research Roundtables. The council will be asked if they see a value in continuing the sessions and/or if they want it to evolve into something different. A suggestion was made to have an all-day session instead of three or four roundtable sessions, since it can be difficult to get away from work that often during the year.
- H. Grants Committee – Mahie Ghoraihi reported that the Grants Committee meets on monthly basis, and right now everyone is waiting on awards to be announced. She will announce who is awarded grants at the next meeting. Mental Health Connection did not receive the trauma grant.

Mental Health Transformation

Patsy Thomas reported that Susan Garnett went to the last Mental Health Transformation Grant meeting in Austin, and several attendees were interested in DataLink. We had hoped to get a seat at the policy table and it just has not happened.

Policy

Barbara Lamsens reported that the Governance Committee has taken a look at the Standards of Care policy and will be suggesting a couple of minor changes. The financial policies have been sent to the Finance Committee for review. The training policies are still being changed to monitor who would be able to attend trainings, what the expectations will be, and how to determine who will attend trainings when there are not enough spaces. The whistleblower policy, code of ethics, and the document destruction policy are being finalized. All of the remaining policies will be presented at the December meeting.

Old Business

There was no Old Business

New Business

Susan reported that Mental Health Connection needs to appoint three people to the Nominating Committee. Lyn Willis volunteered to be on the committee.

Announcements

- A. Michael Steinert stated that about a year and a half ago, he and Rikki Harris were discussing MHMR having to scale back their clients and the impact it could have on the system. The focus was on providing medication management of psychotropics to children and adolescents, and there was a need to coordinate the transition of care to an agency who was able to serve them better. Sonja Gaines reconvened a larger group of people a couple of weeks ago and asked that Michael serve as chair and James Turnage as co-chair. The group will be called Tarrant Children's Behavioral Health Initiative. The group will meet on October 15, and will focus on Medicaid and CHIP children.

- B. Lee LeGrice announced Oct. 4-10 is Mental Illness Awareness Week. JPS as well as Mental Health Association will be offering screenings. National Depression Day is Oct. 8, and MHA will be screening for depression on the 8th and 9th.

- C. Susan Garnett announced the NAMI walk is this Saturday.

- D. Ginny Hickman announced Cook Children's has conducted a health assessment of six counties and the data gathered is currently being analyzed. The results will supplement the data that Hand in Hand has related to mental health services. Cook Children's is planning to have a child health summit in January, during which interested parties from the six counties will learn top-line preliminary results and have an opportunity to discuss who would like to work on specific issues. Cook hopes to be the resource for the data in this community and then help facilitate as communities act on the data.

Adjournment

With no further business, Susan adjourned the meeting at 4 p.m.