

**Grants Committee  
Mental Health Connection of Tarrant County  
November 8, 2006  
Minutes**

**Members Attending**

LaVerne Knezek, Acting Chair, MHMR Research Division  
Sudeepa Bhattacharya, Cook Children's Health Care System  
Pat Cheong, United Way  
Kathy Dolan, Tarrant County Public Health  
Jan Finch, The Parenting Center  
Jennifer Gilley, Tarrant County Challenge  
Angie Gofredo, Lena Pope Home  
John Haenes, Tarrant County Challenge  
Kirsten Painter, University of Texas at Arlington  
Maria Scannapieco, University of Texas at Arlington

**Guest**

Sean Allen, MHMR Research Division

**Introductions**

LaVerne Knezek was acting chair in the absence of Michael Steinert, co-chair, and Debbie Fillmore-Keen, co-chair. Attendees introduced themselves.

**Minutes of Last Meeting**

Kathy Dolan said that minutes from the last meeting had been drafted. Since they were not available for this meeting, they will be considered at the next meeting, January 10.

**Old Business**

Jennifer Gilley and John Haenes updated the group on SAMHSA critiques of submitted proposals. It seems that SAMHSA had been slow in sending them out along with the numerical scores of the peer-reviewed proposals. Jennifer and LaVerne verified that they received the critiques in the interim since the last meeting.

**Current Grant Applications, Requests for Support Letters**

Sean Allen from MHMR Research Division reported on a study that he recently submitted to the National Institute of Mental Health entitled *Relationship Between Mental Health of Mothers and Children in System of Care*. Dr. Diane Snow of the School of Nursing at UTA is a co-investigator for this study. Sean addressed several questions from this committee regarding the ethics of not treating the mother or not treating the child in this study. Sean replied that it would be a matter of focus on the child or on the mother, that no emergency needs would be denied. LaVerne asked for a recommendation for sending this study to Tracy Tucker, lobbyist for Mental Health Connection. There was consensus to recommend forwarding it to Tracy for advocacy purposes.

## Other New Business

Kirsten Painter reported on her dissertation topic, *The Use of Multisystemic Therapy as a Community-Based Treatment Alternative for Youth with Severe Emotional Disturbances*. Her research hypothesis is as follows: “Youth receiving Multisystemic Therapy (MST) will experience more improved functioning and symptoms than youth receiving treatment as usual.” It is a quasi-experimental design using secondary data analysis. MST is considered an evidence-based practice, but it has only been used for youth in the criminal justice system and primarily evaluated by its developers. Her study will look at youth outside of that system.

Angie Gofredo reported on the Hogg Foundation grant that Lena Pope received. It uses *The Defiant Child* and cultural adaptation as the basis for providing services to children in zip code 76119. Staff at Lena Pope are trying to find children who have not been diagnosed previously. They have served 7 children so far from a goal of 80 with an emphasis on African Americans now and Hispanics later.

The discussion evolved into a recent conference that Bruce Perry, M.D., Ph.D., led in this community. Some Lena Pope and United Way staff attended this invitational conference. He talked about going into smaller geographical areas and neighborhoods and building relationships, mapping the brain, evaluating social interactions, trauma and neglect, and defining acceptable, age-appropriate behavior. This event was sponsored by the Conference of Southwest Foundations. Several committee members suggested Dr. Perry as a presenter for Mental Health Connection. For those seeking more information on child trauma, go to [www.childtrauma.org](http://www.childtrauma.org).

## Announcements

Pat Cheong announced that the Families Impact Council of United Way will issue a sole source RFP related to children who witness domestic violence. The purpose of this initiative is to help prevent child abuse and neglect, working with SafeHaven of Tarrant County. It will build on the relationship that SafeHaven has with the Arlington police department. Children will be identified through police reports to domestic disturbances and offered counseling at community locations, including through the schools.

Pat mentioned United Way, in partnership with Neglect Hurts and other community leaders, will undertake a Strategic Planning exercise involving a “charette.”\* It is related to creating a vision for integrated public and private child protection services, including prevention and impending privatization. United Way will identify 3-5 experts and bring them in individually over a series of months to educate a community of stakeholders. The Carter Foundation has been asked to help co-fund this effort. They need a facilitator who would do this on a turnkey basis. It is using the community to assure that there are services in the community to protect children. Jan Finch pointed out that there is currently a six-year plan in place and asked whether it can be amended.

### \* What is a Charette?

The term “charette” evolved from a pre-1900 exercise at the Ecole des Beaux Arts in France. Architectural students were given a design problem to solve within an allotted time. When that time was up, the students would rush their drawings from the studio to the Ecole in a cart called a *charrette*. Students often jumped in the cart to finish drawings on the way. The term evolved to refer to the intense design exercise itself. Today it refers to a creative process akin to visual brainstorming that is used by design professionals to develop solutions to a design problem within a limited timeframe.

2006 -- <http://www.library.cmu.edu/Research/ArchArch/Charette/what.html>  
Martin Aurand, Architecture Librarian and Archivist, [mal@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:mal@andrew.cmu.edu)

Pat distributed flyers on the *Pre-Legislative Health & Human Services Public Policy Forum* to be held on Monday, November 13, from 1:30 to 4:30. She asked that interested persons note the change of location from a previous announcement, that now it will be held at United Way instead of Northeast Campus of Tarrant College.

### **Next Meeting**

The next Grants Committee meeting will be held on the second Wednesday of January 2007, which is January 10, *at 9:15 a.m.* LaVerne will try to get the third floor conference room at MHMR for the next calendar year. There will be no meeting in December.

### **End-of-Year Suggestions for Next Meeting**

The acting chair asked for suggestions for the next meeting. In November of 2005 the committee had a brainstorm session on “I wish the Grants Committee would. . .” Instead of repeating that topic, Jan indicated that she would like to see us address what we have accomplished during the past year and where we want to go. Do we want to keep the same or branch off in different directions? No other comments were offered, but others agreed with her suggestion.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned by the acting chair.