

**Mental Health Connection Membership Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, June 13, 2011 at 8:30am**  
**The Women's Center**

**Attendees:**

Sue Adams	Allison Giles	Carol Nati, M.D.
Cherisse Ashcraft	Stephanie Gillespie	Santos Navarrette, Jr.
Stefan Ateek	Carolyn Hanke	Stephanie Norton
Joan Barcellona	Stevie Hansen	Sherri Pratt
Kay Barkin	Chuck Hoffman	Carolyn Presnall
Samantha Beene	Virginia Hoft	Jamie Souders
Cindy Bethany	Shelby Hopson	Michael Steinert
Jessica Bregnard	Elin Jacks	Greg Sumpter
Jo Carter	Cynthia Jensen	Cynthia Thompson
Pat Cheong	Jennifer Johnson	Otis Thornton
Sharlene Christiansen	Mark Chambers	Mark Ware
Dale Edmiaston	Barbara Lamsens	Brenda Wingo
Debbie Fillmore	Lee LeGrice	Wayne Young
Jan Finch	Patricia McGrew	Lena Zettler
Vidalina Flores	Maureen Oderoh	

Susan Garnett called the meeting to order at 8:38 a.m. and welcomed attendees. Sherri Pratt led the group in introductions.

**Special Reports**

*O.P.E.N. Doors – Fort Worth ISD*

Jo Carter of Fort Worth ISD presented information about O.P.E.N. (Opportunities and Programs meeting Educational Needs) Doors, a three-year grant-funded program that helps students in homeless situations. The program focuses on identification of students who are homeless, enrollment of these students in school, and support for these students so they can be successful in school. O.P.E.N. Doors has been educating counselors, educators and others to recognize students in homeless situations, including those who have been forced into living with other families or friends due to a loss of housing. Many of these students do not realize they qualify for the O.P.E.N. Doors services. To get the word out to students and families, O.P.E.N. Doors uses publicity, posters in the schools and at social service agencies, and word of mouth. More than 1,300 students were identified during this past school year as being in homeless situations, and many more were not identified. O.P.E.N. Doors will provide presentations for agencies to educate employees and clients. Students who enroll through O.P.E.N. Doors do not have to produce the paperwork usually required because the grant prohibits any barriers to enrollment. Citizenship status is not reported. The Student Residency Form is included in student packets every year to help determine if a student qualifies for the program. The school to be attended and the possibility of help with transportation depend on a number of factors, including the student's stability, the amount of time it would take to transport the student to a chosen school and socialization issues. After enrollment, O.P.E.N. Doors

provides support in several areas, including academic, physical, social and emotional. Referrals may be made for housing, shelter and utility assistance, as well as to the Fort Worth ISD Family Resource Centers and the JPS Clinics. Students in the program receive two free meals each day. The program also provides clothing needed for school, including uniforms. O.P.E.N. Doors works through the schools to pay tutors during the day and after school. Challenges facing O.P.E.N. Doors and students include finding services in a timely manner, tracking a very mobile population and gaps in schooling that must be made up. Jo provided leaflets to all in attendance.

Susan introduced Otis Thornton who has led the City of Fort Worth efforts on homelessness for the past several years.

### **Utilization Review**

*Tarrant Cares* – Sarah McClellan-Brandt of SafeHaven reviewed the Tarrant Cares Facebook page and explained how members can post their own information on the site. She urged members to “like” the page. Kay Barkin reported the Tarrant Cares Web site has received 636,927 hits, 259,324 pageviews and 33,128 sessions since March 30. The numbers for the second month of operation are up significantly over the first month. The most visited sites in May were Prenatal to 5; Children and Families; Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities; and Domestic, Sexual and Other Violence.

*DataLink* – Dale Edmiaston reported DataLink had 167 referrals in May, bringing the total during the past year to 2,188.

*JPS Health System* – Wayne Young reported there were 1,452 visits to the Psychiatric Emergency Room in May. There were 279 admissions to the adult unit, 79 admissions to the adolescent unit and 62 to crisis stabilization.

*Cook Children’s Medical Center* – Carolyn Presnall reported the Partial Hospitalization Program currently has eight enrolled, which is down a little because students are out of school for the summer. There are three children in the inpatient unit, due primarily to some staffing issues. In May, the Emergency Room saw 1,173 psychiatric-related cases, the most ever.

*Hand in Hand* – Chuck Hoffman reported that Hand in Hand’s current focus is on systems change and sustainability. Stephanie Norton reported Hand in Hand is looking for a facilitator in Johnson County. Kay Barkin presented the Hand in Hand Facebook page and urged members to “like” it. Allison Giles offered presentations to agency staff about Hand in Hand. Jamie Souders reported that the Johnson County Connect4Success childcare center training just graduated 31 providers from 19 agencies.

*Cultural Competence* – Virginia Hoft reported the next CBMCS training starts on June 16 and will continue on June 17, 23 and 24. There are a few openings remaining. The next training will be August 11, 12, 18 and 19. The final CBMCS training for 2011 will be offered in October. The registration fee is \$125, which includes food, a workbook and CEUs. There will soon be a call for trainer applications.

*Crisis Services* – Mark Ware reported there were more than 7,000 calls to ICare since the beginning of the fiscal year. Of those, 335 were direct referrals to MCOT, and 99 percent of those referrals were diverted from admission to state hospitals. More than 550 have been admitted to the Crisis Stabilization Unit, with 250 to the Residential Unit. Addiction Services has worked with 71 adults. A full-time psychiatrist is joining the Crisis Services Unit next week.

*CCHAPS* – Susan reported CCHAPS held an excellent program on building community collaborations last week.

### **New Business and Announcements**

Lee LeGrice announced the Suicide Prevention Coalition will meet this Friday at 9:30 at Mental Health Association.

Lee also announced Mental Health Association will be holding a 5K Run for Life and 1K Fun Run/Walk on September 10 (9-10-11) in Trinity Park. The purpose of the walk is to create awareness about suicide. Organizers are looking for volunteers. A Save-the-Date card will be distributed within the next day.

Pat Cheong announced that June 21 is the National Day of Action, and United Way of Tarrant County will be participating by holding a “Stuff the Bus” school supplies drive. Buses will be at three sites. All details are on the United Way Web site.

Pat said United Ways around the country are trying to recruit 1 million mentors for schools. Anyone interested in being a mentor can register online. United Way of Tarrant County is in the process of determining the local goal.

Sherri Pratt asked members to think about the traditional end-of-year get-together for Mental Health Connection. It was not well attended this past year, so she plans to poll members in August to determine what they would like to do.

Susan and Patsy Thomas reported that Fort Worth is a finalist in the All America City competition. Entrants named three ways they have overcome challenges in their cities, and Fort Worth included Mental Health Connection as one of the three. Mayor Mike Moncrief invited a delegation of members to go to Kansas City this week to help with the presentation to judges. The ten All America Cities will be named on June 17. In addition to Mental Health Connection, Fort Worth’s entry spotlighted the Directions Home program to address homelessness and the We Are Legal (WAL) program, which addresses graffiti in the City. Otis Thornton, who will be going to Kansas City as well, asked people to “like” the video about Directions Home. The “likes” will be tabulated and a Video Award will be presented on the 17<sup>th</sup> as well.

### **Next Meeting**

There will be no meeting in July. The next meeting will be held Monday, August 8, at 8:30 a.m. at The Women’s Center, 1723 Hemphill.

## **Adjournment**

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:59 a.m.