

Mental Health Connection Membership Meeting Minutes
Monday, September 14, 2009 at 8:30am
Tarrant County Juvenile Services

Attendees:

Sean Allen	Stevie Hansen	Melissa Opheim
Gwen Bain	Allyson Harrell	Carolyn Presnall
Kay Barkin	Barbara Hartzendorf	Barbara Reid
Joe Burkett	Ginny Hickman	Keri Robbins
Wayne Carson	Brenda Hrovat	Cynthia Thompson
Pat Cheong	Elizabeth Johnson	James Turnage
Linda Collins	Delisa King	Randy Turner
Dale Edmiaston	Debby Kratky	Tamra Walker
Debbie Fillmore	Barbara Lamsens	Grace White
Sonja Gaines	Susanne Luebke	Lily Wong
Lydia Garcia	Kelly Mays	Wayne Young
Susan Garnett	Santos Navarrette	
Michele Gortney	Stephanie Norton	

Susan Garnett called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Carolyn Presnall asked that everyone introduce themselves.

Speaker

Susan Garnett introduced Susan Garnett introduced Debby Kratky with Workforce Solutions, who presented “The Changing Face of the Mental Health Workforce.” She explained the extreme rise in unemployment over the past year, along with decreasing incomes of individuals who have been laid off from higher paying jobs. All of this is resulting in rising rates of depression among the unemployed. A helpful Web site for clients who are unemployed is www.workforcesolutions.net. Click on “Surviving a Layoff,” for a number of helpful aids, including step-by-step instructions on how to apply for unemployment.

Debbie also discussed COBRA. Unemployed parents who meet certain criteria might be able to move their children to CHIP, thus reducing their insurance payments to a more reasonable amount.

Announcements:

Carolyn Presnall announced topics for next months meeting:

- Updates on wraparound
- The Keller ISD Alcohol Diversion Program
- Cultural Competency
- Update on DataLink

Pat Cheong has a PowerPoint presentation on United Way's Community Assessment that she can present to anyone who is interested.

Stevie Hansen announced TYRC will hold an open house today from 4-6 p.m. to celebrate MHMR's 40th anniversary.

Sean Allen invited members to attend several professional development programs being offered in September and October by Hand in Hand. The programs, which focus on early childhood mental health, are open to therapists, case managers and front-line staff.

Adjourn

With no further business, Susan Garnett adjourned the meeting at 9:30 a.m. She encouraged members to attend ribbon cutting for The Women Center's new building at 10 a.m.

Next Meeting: The next Mental Health Connection meeting will be held Monday, October 12, 2009 at 8:30a.m. at Tarrant County Juvenile Services.