

CFAC Minutes
June 8, 2006

In attendance: Billie, Cheryl M., Steve, Heather, Edward, Chris, Marcus, Leslie, Rhonda, Cheryl R., Allen, Gwyn, Megan, Janet, Kent E. (Wake CFAC), Pam, Virginia, Dan, Ellen

The May minutes were approved with no changes.

Dan reviewed the three goals for the upcoming year that has been prioritized by CFAC (reducing stigma, provider monitoring and gaps analysis). He explained that the executive committee has met twice since the May meeting to flesh out the format and process that CFAC could utilize in establishing an action plan to address these goals. The committee recommends that CFAC collectively work on each goal, one at a time during regular meetings. Regarding facilitation of the working meetings, the committee recommends that we invite Andy S. from DSC to facilitate the July meeting where the group will work on developing objectives and action items to address the goal of reducing stigma. Dan explained that Lynne Hamlet from the OPC QI Department has also offered to come to a CFAC meeting to talk about provider monitoring and assist the CFAC in better understanding the various activities that will be feasible under this goal. There was a motion to address the goal of reducing stigma during the July CFAC meeting and to invite Andy S. to facilitate the working meeting and establish an action plan around this goal. The following discussions occurred. Cheryl R. suggested that Andy do preparatory research and query the group's specific concerns and suggested solutions related to stigma. It was decided that CFAC members would send Billie specific concerns/instances where stigma is an issue in our community, as well as possible solutions/activities and she will share this with Andy. Billie will send a reminder email to the group. Billie explained that part of Andy's preparatory work is doing research on the subject and meeting with the executive committee to work on the format for the meeting. The motion was seconded and carried with the addition of having CFAC members provide suggestions for solutions and specific concerns regarding stigma to Billie so that she can share this with Andy before the next meeting.

Billie provided the CFAC Liaison update. She passed around an updated CFAC member list. It was noted that Virginia's information should be corrected. Billie provided an update on housing activities in the three counties. In Orange County, the process of developing the Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness is still underway. This summer, there will be committee meetings to begin to develop solutions. Billie will inform and invite CFAC members to these meetings. Also, OPC recently took the lead role in submitting the annual Continuum of Care application for Orange County. The application will renew old housing programs and begin three to four new programs, one of which will be rental assistance for young adults transitioning out of the foster care system. This population is at high risk of becoming homeless. With the help of the MSW intern, OPC has developed a housing resource guide. Additionally, Billie is working with the Person County Affordable Housing Collaborative, which she helped organize and regularly attends the Chatham County Affordable Housing Coalition. Billie informed that effective September 1, 2006, Value Options, a statewide vendor will be responsible for all Medicaid service authorizations. Ellen asked if CAP Waiver services will be approved by Value Options? Cheryl M. answered yes and remarked that Value Options will be bound by federal regulations for CAP Waiver approvals. Billie announced that there will be an Annual Dual Diagnosis Conference on June 16-17 and asked if there was any interest. No one volunteered to attend the conference.

Michael was not present so Billie introduced the topic of House Bill 2083, which will impact the composition of local CFAC's and the process of appointing representatives to the State CFAC. Several questions were generated. Will the bill affect current members? What about next of kin, foster parents and guardians? Is membership being limited to parents? Why was such a bill introduced? It was concluded that the OPC CFAC does not feel that membership in CFAC should be limited to parents of consumers, instead it should be open to family members, or at the very least to guardians and next of kin. There was a motion that Billie draft a letter with the sentiments of the OPC CFAC that will be sent to local House legislators. Chris suggested that the language is discriminatory against people without parents and Kent mentioned that there is also a movement within NAMI for children to advocate for their mentally ill parents. The motion was seconded and carried. Ellen pointed out that this bill also gives the Secretary and certain legislators the right to appoint members of the state CFAC. Ellen feels that all appointments should be reviewed and approved by the state CFAC. It was motioned that the letter include a statement that outlines OPC CFAC's belief that the bill should empower consumers to make recommendations about appointments to the state CFAC. The motion was seconded and carried.

Cheryl noted that she had asked Michael to find out the dates of the regional CFAC day conferences. Billie will check in with Michael about this. Billie will also ask about local CFAC input into the state plan. Ellen indicated that there is a comment plan between Aug. and Sept. and the plan will be released in October.

Allen reported that the budget subcommittee met on May 31. The result is a working budget, which Allen passed out. Allen reviewed last year's budget and the changes to the upcoming budget. It was noted that conferences and training should be two different line items. Ellen made a motion to accept the budget as written. Cheryl seconded and the motion carried. It was recommended that Billie pull together a list of training and conferences, with a brief description of the sponsoring organization.

Pam reminded that in March, she wrote an article for the NAMI newsletter and read the article for the group. She got a letter from a parent of a consumer in need in response to her article. The group discussed how to address the letter. Pam also informed that NAMI would like us to write another article and asked for volunteers? Edward said that he would write an article on our efforts to reduce stigma and will be in contact with Barbara N. at NAMI-OC.

Cheryl and Allen reported on the Consumer Conference that they attended in June. The conference was laid back, with good food and provided an opportunity for networking and connecting. Heather and Leslie went to the NAMI-NC Conference. Leslie specifically remembers the excellent content of the Dual Diagnosis workshop. She also recommended that folks bring back information to share when they attend conferences. Ellen went to the Self Advocate-Becoming Empowered in Atlanta, Georgia in May. Pam and Janet attended a three-day retreat on Women and Addiction in Western NC. They both reported that the content was great, despite the unusual accommodations at a campsite, for which they were not prepared.

The meeting ended with a check-in from all members.