

CFAC Meeting Minutes

December 13, 2007

Present: Leslie, Virginia, Megan, Gwyn, Marcus, Cheryl, Shira, Pam, Allen, Heather, Steve, Vicente, Edward, Allison, and Michael

Guests: Vanessa Neustrom (OPC Customer Service & Community Planner) and Linda

Orange County Housing Support Committee

Vanessa Neustrom presented information on a housing support committee for people with disabilities, which the Department of Health & Human Services asked OPC to organize. This committee would like to have representation from CFAC. Other committee members represent the Chrysalis Foundation, Club Nova, and ACT Teams. The committee deals with funding issues, evaluating housing needs, and occasionally has guest speakers. Committee members will also make recommendations for housing proposals. It meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 3:00, and the next meeting will be January 9th. Pam, Heather, Megan and Vicente all expressed interest and gave Vanessa their contact information.

Minutes: The minutes of the November meeting were approved as written.

REPORTS

Update from CFAC Chair: Virginia reported that the OPC Board approved their new By-laws last week and the Relational Agreement had been signed by the Board Chair and by Judy Truitt (copies of the signed Relational Agreement were included in CFAC packets distributed at this meeting).

Update from OPC CFAC Liaison: Michael informed CFAC members that proposed rules have been published related to topics such as complaints, appeals, LME Business Plans, and Utilization of State Hospitals by LMEs. The period for comments will end on January 14.

Update from State CFAC Liaison: Suzanne was unable to attend this evening, because the shift in this meeting date conflicted with the meeting for another CFAC for which she serves as Division Liaison.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

AQIC

Michael noted that this committee met on Monday and continued the review of policies that are being revised for CARF accreditation.

PSW (Peer Support Workshop)

Michael noted that only a few members were in attendance, likely due to some confusion from the change in the December meeting date. Those who were present reached consensus that the annual workshop should continue, and that the issue of establishing a Drop-in Center as another means of fostering peer support should be taken up by the CFAC as a whole or by another sub-committee of CFAC. The PSW committee will continue to plan the workshop.

Chapel Hill Transit

Pam attended the meeting in November. She reported that a number of different issues were discussed, including the lack of bus service on Rogers Road, too many buses were empty, and various problems with the J Bus route. Pam will continue to keep CFAC updated.

Pinehurst Conference Update

Allen attended the "Nuts and Bolts" session, which included a great deal of detailed information. Some of the things he learned are that LMEs will be required to collect co-pays and information on family income; the Mental Health Parity law does not include substance abuse services; and some funding is available for housing development. This session also reviewed monitoring and legal information. On the second day Allen went to the session on establishing consumer-run businesses, where he heard a very inspiring presentation from a consumer with cerebral palsy who has a business selling bottled water at NASCAR races. V.R. helped this person get his business started.

Cheryl attended a session on models for CFAC and LME collaboration, as well as the one on establishing consumer-run businesses. During the first session she learned that Piedmont has a Drop-in Center which they pay for through their Medicaid Waiver. Members wondered whether this could be a way for OPC to get a Drop-in Center established. She also learned that Pitt County relies heavily on "tele-psychiatry" to ensure that these services are available to consumers in their area. In the second session she heard a presentation by the Small Business Center Network (SBCN) about how they provide financial support and coaching for new business owners. She also learned that there are efforts underway to help consumers who are working keep their Medicaid, possibly by making a payment toward their Medicaid coverage. Overall, Cheryl noted that she saw less polarization at this conference between consumers and professionals/providers than she had observed in previous years.

Heather added that the Community Resource Court (CRC), which was established several years ago as a joint effort by OPC staff and personnel from Judicial District 15B, received an Excellence Award at the banquet. CRC is a treatment court offered as an alternative to regular criminal court.

NEW BUSINESS:

Nomination of Officers

Michael reminded CFAC members that the recent revisions to the By-laws call for election of officers in January. Virginia and Leslie are completing their first year as Chair and Vice-Chair, and both agreed to remain in these positions. Neither Allen nor Pam is eligible to continue as Treasurer or Secretary, since they are serving their second year in those positions. Steve accepted the nomination for Treasurer, and both Heather and Gwyn accepted nominations for Secretary. Elections will be held at the January meeting.

Policy Review

Michael presented 4 documents that have been revised as OPC prepares for CARF accreditation, requesting CFAC input. CFAC members received copies and Michael noted that the revisions had been highlighted. There was consensus among CFAC members that revisions to the "Consumer Handbook," "Notice of Privacy Practices," and policies for "Consumer Complaints" and "Consumer Rights" were fine. Michael asked whether CFAC members had concerns about the use of the term "Consumer" in these documents. Members discussed alternatives such as "protégé" and "client," but there was no consensus to recommend changing the term "consumer."

OLD BUSINESS:

CFAC Membership Cap

CFAC members continued the discussion regarding decreasing the cap in membership, and agreed to drop the cap to 24 members from 30. This will require another revision to the By-laws. Based on the previously agreed method for establishing term end-dates, five members are scheduled to rotate off CFAC in March, and a sixth member would rotate off the Committee in July. Members continued to express concerns over losing so many members with a lot of history and CFAC experience at one time. Alternative ways to establish term end-dates were discussed, including beginning everyone's first term in October 2006 (when HB2077 was passed and term-limits were codified into law) and staggering them to be one-year, two-year, and three-year terms. This method was used by many other CFACs. Another option discussed was to assign every member an initial 3-year term, and then stagger the second term into one, two, and three year periods.

Members also discussed the fact that 4 members had not attended in many months, and the By-laws allow for members to be removed following 6 months of inactivity. Michael reported that he had sent emails to these individuals. Ellen told him she had a conflict with the meeting time once it was moved to the 3rd Thursday, and would like to be considered for "inactive" status. Neither Anne, Chris, nor Janet responded to his message. CFAC members agreed that "inactive status" was not permissible in the By-laws, and that these 4 persons should be removed as CFAC members.

Due to time constraints, further discussion was tabled and will be continued in January.

ITEM FROM THE FLOOR:

Leslie reminded CFAC that she and Virginia would be meeting with Judy Truitt on January 8th and asked whether there were any particular issues members wanted them to take to this meeting. The one issue identified was the lack of DBT therapists in Orange County. CFN has only one, and when she is absent, no DBT services are available. Members recommend adding more DBT therapists.

Check-in and Proposed Agenda for December Meeting:

Continued discussion of CFAC term end-dates