

CFAC Meeting Minutes

May 17, 2007

Present: Leslie, Dan, Ken, Gwyn, Megan, Rhonda, Allen, Marcus, Edward, Shira, Steve, Heather, Suzanne, and Michael

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

REPORTS

Update from CFAC Chair: Virginia was unable to be at the meeting this evening, but asked that members present any concerns that CFAC wants to have Leslie and Virginia bring to their meeting with Judy Truitt on May 29th. Rhonda shared that she had received a notice that Caring Family Network (CFN) was limiting the days of operation for their Hillsborough Office to 2 days per week. Concerns were expressed that this reduction in the hours of operation will equal a reduction in the services available to Orange County residents, especially those who live in the northern part of the county who do not have transportation to Chapel Hill. Members also expressed concern over the loss of jobs for many former employees of OPC, and for the loss of continuity of service providers for consumers. Michael noted that CFN attributed the need to take this action to the recent reduction in the reimbursement rate for Community Support services. Leslie and Virginia will bring this concern to Judy Truitt on May 29th.

Update from OPC CFAC Liaison: Michael pointed out that an announcement of a public forum about OPC and system reform was included in everyone's packet this evening. He encouraged members to attend and invite their friends and neighbors who might have an interest. The forum will be held at the Sunrise Church in Chapel Hill on May 22nd. Michael also informed CFAC that Dr. Alice Lin (the consultant who will be meeting with LMEs as a part of a review of system reform) will be at OPC on Monday, June 11. She is requesting a meeting with CFAC members. Ken, Dan, Edward, and Rhonda all expressed interest in attending. Michael will pass along the times they are available to the staff who are coordinating Dr. Lin's schedule for that day.

Update from State CFAC Liaison: Suzanne provided a brief overview of the State Strategic Plan for 2007-2010 (which is available in the Pass Around Folder for any member who would like a copy). The plan focuses on 5 objectives:

- Creating/maintaining a stable and high quality provider system
- Developing comprehensive crisis services
- Integrating and standardizing system processes around the state
- Consumer outcomes related to housing
- Consumer outcomes related to education & employment

Suzanne explained that we are now in a public comment period, and that the Division welcomed input and recommendations, which need to be submitted to Rebecca Carina by Friday, May 25. Feedback can be sent via e-mail, or by regular mail for those who do not have Internet access. Dan requested that a longer period for comment be established in the future so that CFACs could develop a consensus position, in addition to individual members providing their feedback.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Adult MH/SA Committee

No one was present at that meeting.

AQIC

Rhonda reported that she had been unable to attend, but the minutes from that meeting reflected that AQIC reviewed a draft of the Annual Provider Status Report that tracks provider compliance with state rules and contract requirements.

DD Committee

Bradley was not present tonight to make a report.

Child & Family Committee

Dan reported that committee staff briefed members on some new program proposals for which they are trying to secure funds. Lisa Lackmann (OPC staff for that committee) is writing grants to provide mentoring for parents, in an effort to seek greater parental involvement in services. They also discussed the situation with CFN, and the proposal to restructure OPC Board Committees.

PSW (Peer Support Workshop)

Edward and Allen reported that the committee hoped to finalize presenters next month for the September workshop, as well as a draft of the brochure. The PSW Committee is also continuing to request help from CFAC members on the day of the workshop. Plans are coming along well. The committee is working on a mission statement. They have identified a facilitator and a likely keynote speaker.

OLD BUSINESS:

CFAC members reviewed a draft of the Relational Agreement, developed from the meeting facilitated by Andy Sachs and a follow-up meeting between some of OPC's management staff and Virginia & Leslie. Michael reported that the section covering the "Responsibilities of the Parties" was taken directly from HB2077. Suzanne pointed out that the statute requires the CFAC to *review* (not advise) and comment on the Local Business Plan. Additional suggestions were to include as a responsibility of the Governing Board and LME that they will provide an operational budget for CFAC, out of which CFAC members will have the authority to approve expenditures. Also, it was suggested that we add that a member of CFAC will meet with OPC Management Team on at least a Quarterly basis in order to discuss issues of interest to CFAC, and/or concerns about the service system. That representative will be selected by the members of CFAC. Michael will make the changes/additions as discussed and send out the draft so that all CFAC members will have an opportunity to comment before it is sent out in the OPC Area Board packet. Members who wish to make suggestions should contact Michael before May 31st.

NEW BUSINESS:

CFAC to State-CFAC Report

Michael reported that the State-CFAC had requested a report from the OPC-CFAC, which had originally been due in February. Suzanne added that the State-CFAC would compile the data from all of the local CFACs and present a report to the Division. This report would also be shared with LMEs. The report requests CFAC present its concerns as well as recommendations for how to address them.

Dan shared his general concern that citizens don't know who to contact with concerns they have about persons they perceive to be service recipients of neighborhood providers, such as group homes. There was discussion about contacting law enforcement when behaviors present a clear risk to community safety or the safety of the presumed consumer. Although a clear solution was not evident, there was acknowledgment that community education plays an important role in answering these sorts of questions for citizens.

In the area of mental health, CFAC identified a problem with a lack of housing for persons coming out of institutions, as well as providers closing their doors due to lack of funding. CFAC recommends funding for success to make sure the system has financially stable providers. In addition, Leslie stressed the importance of providing services and education for families of consumers who have been institutionalized.

In the area of developmental disabilities, CFAC identified problems with a lack of resources to respond to crises involving mechanical failures of assistive equipment & technologies when these happen after hours, as well as the need for increased mainstreaming in the education system. The recommendation was to be careful not to limit crisis services to dealing only with psychiatric emergencies. It's also important to encourage providers to include strategies for dealing with equipment failures in the crisis plan section of the consumer's Person Centered Plan.

In the area of substance abuse, CFAC identified problems with a shrinking number of residential options for people who are new to their recovery, and reluctance on the part of some providers to "label" kids as substance abusers (thereby limiting services available to them). CFAC recommends seeking grants to open more homes, and educating providers about the need for accurate diagnostic information.

CFAC also suggested that the State-CFAC could assist with networking, and provide information on what is working well for other CFACs.

Michael will also circulate a draft of this report to all CFAC members. Any feedback or recommendations should be submitted by Wednesday, May 30th to that the report can be submitted to the State-CFAC by the current deadline.

Review of Updated CFAC Brochure

CFAC reviewed an updated brochure and flier that Heather worked on with Michael. The idea would be to mail these to providers in an effort to recruit new members, particularly those in Person and Chatham Counties. Members liked the brochure and flier, but recommended adding the address of the CFAC meetings to both. Since Virginia was not present, Michael agreed to get her approval to have her name and home phone number listed. Leslie agreed to have her contact information on the flier.

Michael is scheduling a meeting with Ken from OPC's I.T. Dept. to discuss possible additions to CFAC's web page.

CFAC 207-2008 Budget

Allen reported that it is time to develop the CFAC budget for the next fiscal year. Rhonda, Leslie, Heather, and Edward volunteered to work with Allen and Michael on this task. Michael will arrange a meeting room and get in touch with everyone to coordinate a time for the meeting.

Proposed Agenda for June Meeting:

Update on the CFAC web page and approval of CFAC 2007-08 Budget.