

CFAC Meeting Minutes

September 20, 2007

Present: Virginia, Leslie, Gwyn, Megan, Rhonda, Pam, Shira, Allen, Cheryl, Bradley, Steve, Heather, Marcus, Vicente, Suzanne, and Michael

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

REPORTS

Update from CFAC Chair: Virginia reported on the meeting she and Leslie had with Judy Truitt on Sept. 11th. She noted that a lot of time was spent discussing Medicare and Medicaid eligibility, and asked whether CFAC would like to have someone come to a future meeting to talk about Medicaid. Allen requested that a speaker might focus on new Medicaid rules. Leslie added that Judy had mentioned an organization called "Life Plan Trust" which could also provide helpful information on setting aside resources in a trust, so that a consumer's eligibility for entitlements might not be a hindrance to their eligibility for entitlements and benefits. This group could be another useful presenter for a future CFAC meeting.

Virginia also noted that Judy responded to the questions presented at the last meeting about how consumers access services. Judy recommended calling the OPC Customer Service number (919-913-4120) because the staff are trained to help consumers navigate through the system to determine what services they may be eligible for, based on need, diagnosis, etc.

Finally, Virginia reported that she was sworn in as a voting member of the OPC Area Board during their October meeting!

Update from OPC CFAC Liaison: Michael highlighted a number of upcoming workshops and conferences that were in the Pass Around Folder, including: a "Know Your Rights" training in Raleigh for persons in recovery from SA issues, a conference on "Intentional Peer Support" that would be held in Hartford, CT, in November, and the NC Council's annual Pinehurst Conference in December. Megan added an announcement that the NC TASH annual board meeting would be held in Greensboro on November 9th. Non-TASH members would be welcome to attend but could not vote on any issues presented at the meeting.

Michael also presented a summary of Dr. Alice Lin's report on Reform Implementation. Dr. Lin identified some weaknesses in system reform, such as a lack of qualified SA providers and a lack of public awareness about what services are available. She noted that some providers are unwilling to serve consumers who "pose challenges," such as those who are homeless or who have severe addiction problems. She also pointed out that the pace of change has been too fast and not very well managed. Among the strengths she found in system reform, Dr. Lin cited the increase in available funding since reform began, as well as the creation of CFACs, which she described as a "shining accomplishment in an otherwise turbulent reform process." Finally, a few of her recommendations included improving consumer access, increasing capacity for substance abuse providers and crisis services, addressing DD issues, reducing regulations and paperwork, and working toward a "shared vision."

Michael also announced that the Client Rights Committee was seeking consumer representation following the resignation of 2 consumer members. Rhonda, Pam, Marcus and Heather all expressed interest. Michael will provide this information to the members of the Client Rights Committee at their October meeting.

Update from State CFAC Liaison: Suzanne pointed out the survey of training needs in everyone's packet this evening. She asked that members return these to her by October 31. The Division is planning a statewide conference for CFAC members to be held in Winston-Salem on February 29 - March 1, 2008, and the surveys will be used to help plan a conference that will address the training needs of CFAC members. The Division is urging all CFAC members to attend from across the state. There will be no charge for CFAC members to attend the conference.

Next, Suzanne reviewed the CFAC/LME Action Plan, which can be used to ensure that CFACs are carrying out their responsibilities as outlined in HB2077. She also reviewed a document

entitled "CFAC Action Plan Questions," which was designed to help identify strategies for the plan that can be individualized for each CFAC, depending on their own arrangements/relationships with their LMEs. Some CFAC members thought it would be useful to have Judy Truitt come to a meeting a couple of times each year. This document will be a focus of discussion in the near future.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Adult MH/SA Committee

Virginia reported that this Committee learned about an evidence based instrument that will be used to identify people who need services who are currently incarcerated.

The Committee also discussed the issues surrounding some LMEs' inability to spend all of their state money, which is largely the result of strict age and disability categories which do not allow the money to be shifted very easily. The Division has recently granted single stream funding to more LMEs, and guidelines for new LMEs to apply for single stream funding should be available by December.

AQIC

Rhonda noted that she had attended a QI Conference recently. She reported that there was a lot of emphasis on DD and SA, with a focus on teamwork. She agreed to bring more detailed information about the conference to the next CFAC meeting.

PSW (Peer Support Workshop)

The workshop will be held tomorrow. Registration is now full! We anticipate it to be a successful conference.

NEW BUSINESS:

Review of CFAC Accomplishments

Michael reviewed a list of CFAC accomplishments for Fiscal Year 2006-2007. Among these were: learning about HB 2077's requirements for local CFACs and approving revised By-Laws to reflect these responsibilities; reviewed and approved a draft of OPC's Local Business Plan; developed and approved a revised Relational Agreement that incorporates requirements of HB 2077; attained representation on the OPC Quality Improvement Committee; made recommendations to OPC management for needs related to crisis services; reviewed and endorsed proposals from local providers for use of Mental Health Trust Fund dollars; reported concerns and made recommendations to the State CFAC in the areas of MH, DD, and SAS services in the OPC catchment area; elected new officers; attended numerous workshops and conferences throughout the year; and sponsored the annual Peer Support Workshop which was a big success, attracting local consumers as well as participants from a number of areas outside of the Triangle.

Review of Revised By-Laws

At the request of the CFAC, Michael presented a revised version of the By-Laws for initial review. The only change to the By-Laws was to move the date of election of new officers from September to January. Per the existing By-Laws, no vote was taken tonight. The By-Laws will be reviewed again during the October meeting, at which time members will vote on whether to approve the revision.

Chapel Hill Transit Advisory Committee

A report was requested from members who had joined the Chapel Hill Transit Advisory Committee, but no one had contacted or joined the group. Discussion ensued regarding the importance of this issue, and both Megan and Heather agreed to get involved with this committee. A progress report will be offered in October.

OLD BUSINESS:

Recruitment of New CFAC Members

Michael gave a brief review of a recruitment plan, which involves sending out mailings to SA and DD providers in Person and Chatham Counties. The mailing will include a cover letter, flyers to be posted in providers' sites, and brochures to be distributed to consumers. In addition, Michael recommended including two Orange County providers: Freedom House (which is the largest provider of SA services in the OPC area) and El Futuro (which is the only provider with a clientele made of exclusively of the Hispanic population). Allen asked that the mailing to El Futuro specify that only consumers who are citizens or legal aliens would be welcomed to join CFAC. Virginia asked to table a decision on this until we could determine whether this action was legal.

Check-in and Proposed Agenda for August Meeting:

Approval of revised By-Laws

Report from members of the Chapel Hill Transit Advisory Committee

Continuation of CFAC recruitment discussion