

CFAC Meeting Minutes

February 21, 2008

Present: Leslie, Marcus, Gwyn, Megan, Heather, Cheryl, Ken, Pam, Linda, Shira, Steve, Allen, Rhonda, Allison, Suzanne, and Michael

Guests: Jim Martin, Toni Pedroza, and Diane

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

NEW BUSINESS:

CFN Transition Update

Jim Martin presented some background information regarding CFN's decision to close their outpatient operations in the OPC area. Ultimately, continuing to operate these programs was no longer financially feasible for CFN, due in large part to the reduction in the reimbursement rate for Community Support, and the fact that they were the primary provider for consumers funded through IPRS (which is a capitated funding source). OPC is working to identify 2 or 3 large providers for each county, in order to avoid a similar situation from happening to a provider in the future.

Jim presented an update on the transition in each county:

Person County

Freedom House will take over provision of daytime crisis services, as well as outpatient mental health and substance abuse treatment and some psychiatry services. They will also get endorsed to provide Community Support services. In addition, Triumph will be providing adult mental health treatment, adult and child psychiatry services, and Community Support services for both children and adults. Both of these providers have gotten approval on a waiver for the moratorium on Community Support endorsement. They will be operating out of the county-owned facility that had been used by CFN, and many CFN staff have been hired by the new providers. On February 25th OPC will hold a meeting for consumers to introduce them to these new providers for Person County.

Chatham County

OPC and Universal reached a mutual decision that Universal would not expand into Chatham and Orange Counties. Freedom House will expand into Chatham County (providing both substance abuse and mental health services), along with a company called Therapeutic Alternatives. Therapeutic Alternatives has already leased office space in Siler City and will operate 5 days/week. Because things have not fallen in place as quickly for Chatham as they did in Person, CFN has agreed to extend their services through the end of March to help cover service gaps. It is not clear whether CFN will accept any new referrals during the month of March, or whether persons will be assessed and then placed on a waiting list for services if they are not experiencing a crisis.

Orange County

Like Chatham County, there are still unresolved details in the transition for Orange County. Again, Freedom House will provide many of the outpatient mental health and substance abuse services that had been provided by CFN. Triumph will also expand into southern Orange County (they currently have an office in Hillsborough). OPC staff met with a new provider today, but negotiations are not far enough along to identify this provider. The new provider will likely take over the space used by CFN in Chapel Hill, and provide many of the services that were offered by CFN. OPC is hopeful that Freedom House will take over provision of daytime crisis services in Orange County.

As soon as commitments are firm in Orange and Chatham Counties, OPC will work with the new providers to schedule meetings with consumers and staff similar to those that were held in Person County.

REPORTS:

Update from CFAC Chair: Virginia was unable to attend this evening.

Update from OPC CFAC Liaison: Michael mentioned two upcoming training opportunities that are included in the Pass Around Folder. The first is a free training on Micro-Enterprises, and 3 of our CFAC members are currently registered. The second training he highlighted is a new web-based WRAP Training using the curriculum developed by Mary Ellen Copeland. Michael also shared that the February Board meeting was largely focused on the CFN transition and that the Board had gotten a similar update to what was presented to CFAC this evening.

Update from State CFAC Liaison: Suzanne reported that the first Regional CFAC training for the central region would be held on April 24th, from 9 - 4:00 at the Ambassador Suites in Henderson. There are no limits on attendance; the training is open to all CFAC members. The OPC CFAC will participate with Durham and Five County CFACs. She also noted that the NC Council of Community Programs is working on developing a statewide organization for consumer advocacy and support. They are sponsoring a free symposium on March 10th. Suzanne also reported on Implementation Update #39, which is effective 2/22/2008 and which sets a limit on the number of paid hours of CAP services that can be provided by family members. She reported on Implementation Update #40, as well, which extends through October 31st the transition deadline for 16 families affected by the limit established in the previous Implementation Update. Finally, Suzanne noted that other LMEs who had tried to establish one primary provider to serve uninsured consumers had similar experiences to what OPC is going through with CFN. This is a service model that just does not work because it places too much financial burden on that provider.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

AQIC

No report

PSW (Peer Support Workshop)

Leslie noted that Wendy Smallridge had submitted a proposal for providing consultation to the PSW committee, which committee members approved tonight. This will require an amendment to the budget for the 2008 workshop.

NEW BUSINESS (cont):

Oxford House Proposal

A representative of Oxford House was scheduled to present a proposal to CFAC regarding a peer support model they have begun in Wake County, which Oxford House would like to replicate in the OPC area. The representative did not show up tonight. (Note: Michael learned after the meeting that she had been called out of town unexpectedly due to a family death). Michael reported that OPC's management team had recommended Oxford House submit an application for MH Trust funds for this proposal.

OLD BUSINESS:

Area Board Sub-Committee Assignments

Several CFAC members had expressed interest in serving on these sub-committees during the January meeting, but Michael reminded CFAC that the Board's By-laws established only one seat on each committee dedicated to CFAC. There is an additional consumer/family member seat to which a CFAC member *could* be appointed if no one else is interested. The members who agreed to serve for CFAC are as follows:

Leslie - Provider Community and Quality Management

Pam - Service Management Capacity

Heather - Public Awareness and Advocacy

The committees will hold a joint meeting at 5:30 on Thursday, March 13th.

ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR:

Members proposed sending a plant to Virginia to let her know she is missed and in our thoughts. Michael agreed to have something colorful and unique delivered to Virginia's home.

Check-in and Proposed Agenda for March Meeting:

Leslie reminded members that she and Virginia were scheduled to meet with Judy Truitt again on Tuesday, March 11, and asked whether there were any issues they would like for her to bring to this meeting. None were proposed.

A presentation on OPC's budget will be scheduled for March.