

# CFAC Meeting Minutes

## January 15, 2009

**Present:** Virginia, Leslie, Edward, Benita, Diane, Gwyn, Pam, Linda, Marcus, Allen, Steve, Heather, Vicente, Cheryl, Suzanne, and Michael

**Guests:** Laci

**Minutes:** The minutes of the December meeting were approved.

### **REPORTS:**

**Update from CFAC Chair:** Virginia shared that she had attended a recent NAMI meeting at which Deby Dihoff from the state NAMI office presented information on 3 trainings. The first was to facilitate peer support group sessions; the second was about a Peer to Peer Support Program focusing on relapse prevention; and the third involved a multimedia program. During the discussion Heather announced that the *Brushes with Life* Documentary would be shown again on Tuesday, February 24<sup>th</sup> at the Farrington House Barn. The film would be screened at 7:00, followed by a panel discussion. All CFAC members are welcome to attend. Virginia said that NAMI can present this information to CFAC if members are interested, and CFAC agreed to invite Ms. Dihoff to present at a future meeting. Virginia also mentioned that NAMI was working with the state to try to develop a service definition for Peer Support, which would make it a reimbursable service.

**Update from OPC CFAC Liaison:** Michael reported that Donna Cotter from Recovery Inc. would be available to present to CFAC in either April or May. He will firm up a date with her next week. He also alerted members that rumors were spreading that Freedom House was possibly going out of business. Michael made it clear that these were merely rumors, and that the information was not accurate. Freedom House is looking for ways to be more efficient and productive in order to stay fiscally viable during these tough economic times. Tom Velivil is working closely with Freedom House staff in this process to develop both short- and long-term strategic planning. Michael asked CFAC members to help set the record straight if they hear these rumors in the community.

**Update from State CFAC Liaison:** Suzanne reported that Implementation Update #52 had been posted to the DMH website. It includes information on the new tiered Community Support rate, which pays a higher rate for work performed by professionals and a lower rate for work provided by people with less experience and education. Suzanne also noted that Lanier Cansler had been sworn in as the new DHHS Secretary. She said that people had expressed some concerns regarding the Secretary's history as a lobbyist and potential conflicts of interest. Anyone who has concerns should direct them to Governor Perdue's office.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### *Item from the Floor*

CAFC members engaged in a discussion around Peer Support, and the question was asked whether it saves money. While there can be savings based on service outcomes for consumers, there is no built-in savings based on salaries. This is because Peer Support Specialist need to be paid based on their qualifications. They should not automatically be paid a lower salary than other service providers.

#### *Election of CFAC Officers*

CFAC members voted by secret ballot for the 2009 Officers. The new officers are:

Chair - Steve Furman

Vice-Chair - Cheryl Russ

Treasurer - Pam Chevalier

Secretary - Heather Nash

#### *Division Monitoring of OPC*

Michael shared that the Division would be coming to monitor OPC within the next couple of weeks because our fund balance had fallen below the mandatory 8% (OPC's fund balance was 7.2% of the annual budget) and because of some problems with penetration rates and timely initiation of services. He will apprise CFAC of the outcome of the monitoring next month.

#### *Planning for Additional Budget Cuts*

Michael presented a request from OPC Management Team that CFAC consider returning a portion of their budget if OPC is required to do any more cuts to the current year's budget. The money would be used to help pay for services. CFAC agreed to convene a sub-committee to discuss the request and make a recommendation to CFAC during the February meeting. Leslie, Benita, Gwyn, Pam, Linda, Cheryl, Steve, Heather, Allen, and Marcus all offered to serve on the subcommittee.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

#### *Care Coordination Function Update*

Michael noted that OPC had provided updated information to the Division on the timely initiation of services for people leaving state facilities. Data was provided to CFAC in their packets for this evening's meeting. Members were reminded that the issue was that OPC had fallen below the state average in the last 2 quarters of 2007-2008. The updated figures furnished by OPC's Care Coordination unit showed that OPC had, in fact, fallen above the statewide average. In the 3rd Quarter the average was 50%, and OPC's data reflects a total of 59.6%. Similarly, in the 4th Quarter the statewide average was 43.9% and OPC's data reflects a total of 48.8%. In both quarters, OPC's data includes an additional 12 consumers seen who were not included in the data available to the Division.

#### *Peer Support "Train the Trainer" Discussion*

Michael did not hear back from Meridian on whether they provide this. After some discussion it appeared that Ken is the only CFAC member currently interested in pursuing this training.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

#### *AQIC*

Pam noted that this Committee continued review of policies.

#### *OPC Area Board Sub-Committees*

These Committees did not meet during the month of January, as the Area Board held their annual retreat.

#### *PSW (Peer Support Workshop)*

This Committee did not meet in January. They are scheduled to resume meeting in February. If anyone is interested they should contact Edward or Michael.

#### *PSC (Peer Support Center)*

This Committee will bring the survey to CFAC next month for distribution among providers.

### **Proposed Agenda for February Meeting:**

AQIC Quarterly Report