

CFAC Meeting Minutes

December 17, 2009

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

Minutes: The minutes of the November meeting were approved.

REPORTS:

Update from CFAC Chair: Steve said that he and Cheryl had been unable to meet with Judy Truitt, and had no additional report. He wished all of CFAC a Happy Holiday.

Update from OPC CFAC Liaison: Michael said he also did not have a report. But he pointed out that members had in their packets a list of the names and contact information for each CFAC member, which had been requested at the November meeting. He did not add this to the CFAC notebooks so that members could bring the contact information home with them.

Update from Division Liaison: Suzanne provided an update on the CABHAs. She said that the Division had received a lot of feedback from providers and others about the requirement for a CABHA to have a full-time medical director, which can be very costly. As a result, this requirement has been changed. This requirement will now be based on the number of consumers served. A CABHA serving more than 750 consumers must have a full-time Medical Director, but those that serve fewer than 750 may be certified as a CABHA with a half-time Medical Director. In addition, the Medical Director may provide some billable services as long as all of the other requirements for the Medical Director are fulfilled.

Suzanne also provided an update on information included in Implementation Update #65. She noted that CMS will be conducting audits throughout NC for overpayments in Medicaid and Medicare. In addition, the Implementation Update includes some revisions to SAIOP, SACOT, and ACTT services. Consumers needing SAIOP may be seen for an initial 30 day period without prior authorization. This period will be 60 days for consumers in need of SACOT services. Also, ACTT providers will be able to staff mid-sized teams for serving between 51 - 75 consumers. Currently, only small and large teams are permitted.

Finally, Suzanne informed members that DRNC brought a lawsuit against Secretary Cansler and the Beacon Center. The lawsuit is on behalf of two consumers who were members of the Thomas S class action law suit who are now receiving services funded by CAP. This means that they are no longer eligible for services to be funded through IPRS. The suit is based on concerns that this loss of IPRS funding will result in institutionalization for the individuals involved in the lawsuit. Suzanne pointed out that there is a newspaper article on this lawsuit included in the Pass Around Folder.

NEW BUSINESS:

CFAC Budget Revision

Pam reported on the budget proposal developed by an *ad hoc* committee of CFAC members. The revision was needed to address the 10% reduction in the budget, due to OPC's decision to shift 10% of county dollars into services to help to minimize the impact of reductions in IPRS money from the state. This reduced CFAC's annual budget by \$2,500. Pam noted that the

proposal took the money from line items that CFAC has spent little, if any, money over the past few years. These included:

- Advertising (\$350 reduction)
- Equipment (\$250 reduction)
- Social Events (\$100 reduction)
- Speakers (\$250 reduction)
- Consulting (\$1,000 reduction)
- Transportation (\$400 reduction) and
- Mailing Supplies (\$150 reduction).

Although other line items, such as Stipends and Training, had large amounts remaining in them, the committee members did not recommend any cuts in these because it is likely CFAC will spend all of that money by the year's end. After a brief discussion, Benita moved to approve the budget revision, and Gwyn seconded the motion. The revision was approved by a unanimous vote.

Nomination of Officers

Michael pointed out that CFAC's By-Laws call for election of officers during the January meeting. He noted that all 4 officers are eligible to be re-elected to their positions since each has served only one term. However, Cheryl's second term as a CFAC member will end early in 2010, so if she is re-elected as Vice-Chair, CFAC will need to elect a new Vice-Chair in a few months. All 4 officers expressed willingness to serve again in their respective positions. In addition, Diane is interested in serving as Secretary and Heather said she would be willing to serve as Vice-Chair. Michael said he would prepare ballots for the January meeting that will also include space for "write-in" candidates.

OPC Mission Statement & Code of Ethics

Michael let members know that the OPC Area Board would be completing their annual review and approval of these documents during their Board Retreat in January. Before this takes place, OPC wanted to give CFAC an opportunity to have input. Cheryl asked whether it was possible to make some parts of the vision statement more concrete and specific. For example, she asked whether the fourth bullet ("We will assist our provider community in serving individuals most in need") could specify that the consumers receiving services would determine their level of need. Members agreed with Cheryl's point and brainstormed ways to phrase the revision. Members asked Michael to develop a revision capturing this point, which they could then respond to. He agreed to write a draft and send it to members via e-mail and fax. Because these documents will need to be mailed to the Board prior to their retreat, Michael said that members would need to provide their feedback to the draft revision by the end of December at the latest.

Provider Update

Michael presented information about steps providers are planning to deal with the cuts to their budgets that came about due to the reductions in MH/DD/SA funding included in the state budget this fiscal year. The information was gathered through a survey that OPC posted on Survey Monkey. Thirty-four providers responded to the survey. All age and disability groups are represented in the sample of providers who responded, as are all 3 counties.

Eighteen providers indicated they had received a reduction in IPRS funding, and half of these noted that their funds were cut between 10 - 30%. Most all of them are trying to manage the reductions in part by laying off employees and/or reducing staff salaries and benefits. Sixteen of these providers have also reduced services for consumers, and 5 have chosen to discharge some of their consumers. In addition, some providers are no longer accepting new referrals for consumers whose services are funded by IPRS (or placing such referrals onto a waiting list).

Twenty-eight providers reported that the reduction in Medicaid rates has had a negative impact on their ability to provide services (and 8 of these noted that the impact has been significant). Their methods of managing the impact of these rate reductions are very similar to the strategies

they are using to manage the reduction in IPRS funding outlined above. Some additional measures described in the survey responses for handling the reduction in Medicaid rates include:

- delays in seeking endorsement for new services,
- choosing not to fill vacant positions, and
- limiting the transportation services they provide.

Finally, Michael reported that 16 of the providers who responded to the survey have plans to become CABHAs. Four of these believe they already meet all of the criteria.

OLD BUSINESS:

Membership Update

No member's term is scheduled to expire in December.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

AQIC

Pam and Michael noted that AQIC reviewed the Mission Statement and Code of Ethics at their last meeting. They also reviewed two policies and discussed potential Quality Improvement projects for OPC.

Client Rights Committee

Benita reported that she had been unable to attend the December meeting due to a work-related scheduling conflict.

Provider Community/Quality Management Committee

Leslie said that this committee reviewed the information Michael had presented tonight from the survey of providers.

Service Management & Public Awareness and Advocacy Committees

These Board Committees held a joint meeting in December, and Heather and Pam shared that the Committees got an update on the changes to the CABHAs that Suzanne had explained earlier in this meeting.

Peer Support Center Committee

Leslie reported that they met at Freedom House yesterday for peer support activities. The people who gathered made frame ornaments that had been donated by Edward. They also engaged in fellowship and discussed visions of a peer support center, including a "peer support farm." There has not been a recent planning meeting. Members of this committee need to schedule a meeting.

State CFAC

The State CFAC has not met since the last meeting.

OPC Area Board

Heather said that she was sworn in as a Board member at their December meeting. They discussed a number of issues, including whether to keep funding the 3 adult group homes. The Board voted to maintain this funding.

Proposed Agenda for January Meeting:

- Peggy Yonuschot will present the quarterly Needs Assessment Update.
- CFAC officers will be elected.