

# CFAC Meeting Minutes

## December 21, 2010

**Present:** Steve, Heather, Vicente, Bradley, Bryan, Linda, Marcus, Leslie,

**Guests:** Cheryl, Allen

**Staff Liaison:** Michael Norton

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

### REPORTS:

**Update from CFAC Chair:** Steve had no report.

**Update from OPC CFAC Liaison:** Michael provided the following updates to CFAC members:

- The OPC Board voted to withdraw their Letter of Intent to merge with Alamance-Caswell LME. They made this decision largely because there were too many points that the 2 LMEs were not yet in agreement on, and there is not enough time to work through them and complete a successful merger by July 1, 2011.
- Michael informed CFAC members that the state was seeking volunteers to provide a consumer and family member perspective on crisis stabilization, as well as a consumer volunteer for a committee that will review applications from programs who want to be promoted by the state as having improved practices. If any members are interested in this volunteer opportunity, the information is included in the Pass Around Folder. Finally,
- Finally, Michael told CFAC members that OPC had gotten a “de-allocation” letter saying the LME would lose over \$300K in service dollars in the current Fiscal Year. But last week, OPC was informed that Secretary Cansler and Deputy Secretary Watson had identified funds to offset the need to reduce service dollars, so the de-allocation letters were nullified.

### NEW BUSINESS:

#### *Revision of CFAC By-Laws*

Members discussed a potential revision to their By-laws regarding the length of time members who have rotated off CFAC must wait before they are eligible to join again. Currently, the By-laws require former members to wait one year before they are able to re-join, but Division Liaison Eric Fox had researched this question and let CFAC know that there was no basis in statute for members to wait any particular length of time after rotating off a Local CFAC before they can join again. Members discussed the value of having people with experience serving on the CFAC, and expressed an interest in balancing that with the value of having vacancies available so that new members can join as well. Following this discussion, Linda moved that the By-laws be amended to require a 6-month period after rotating off CFAC before former members would be eligible to be appointed to a new term. Heather seconded the motion, which was passed by unanimous vote. Michael noted that the By-laws require CFAC to wait until a second review of any changes before they can vote to amend the By-laws. Therefore, he will prepare an amended version of the By-laws to be presented in January, which can be voted on for approval in February.

#### *January Conference Call with State CFAC*

There will be a conference call between the State CFAC and Local CFACs on Wednesday, January 19th from 7 – 8 PM. The purpose is to open lines of communication between the State CFAC and Local CFACs, and the State CFAC is asking each local CFAC to select a spokesperson. Steve has agreed to participate, and Heather will join in as well.

### *SFY 201112 Budget Update*

Michael reported that OPC Management is already getting started with planning several versions of the service budget for the next fiscal year, using reduction levels of 10%, 15%, 20% and 25%. They are starting this process because next year's state budget is projected to have more than a \$3 billion dollar deficit, due in part to the fact that a temporary tax hike is scheduled to expire, plus there will be no more federal stimulus dollars coming in. The incoming Republican leadership is vowing to balance the budget with cuts alone. Michael noted that a 25% reduction will decimate the budgets of many providers and drive them out of business, so the hope is that the cuts will not need to be that deep. But OPC is trying to be prepared for any budget scenario they are presented with. Michael noted that the Board will be discussing this issue at their retreat next month, so OPC is asking for CFAC input now, before the Board takes up this discussion and makes their own recommendations and decisions. The main question is whether to spread any required cuts evenly across the board for all disability areas/services? And if not, then are there some services OPC should protect from any reductions? Michael told members that the state will require LMEs to protect crisis and residential services from any cuts that have to take place. Members discussed the difficulties that would be faced by consumers with any level of budget cuts, given that funding is not currently adequate to meet all the needs in the community. Following this discussion, the CFAC's final recommendation was that OPC use data from past years to determine whether any particular service area tends not to use all of the funds that are allocated. If any can be identified, CFAC would support reducing those service areas by larger amounts. Otherwise, CFAC's recommendation is to spread the cuts evenly across all services.

### *Chatham County Service Update*

Therapeutic Alternatives, the largest provider in Chatham County, has been having difficulty supporting the full-time operation of two clinics, and had notified OPC of their intent to close their offices in Pittsboro, with the idea that all Chatham residents would be served from their Siler City clinic. OPC was concerned that this plan would not meet the needs of the community, since the county is very large and rural, and many citizens who live in the eastern end of the county would be unable to find a way to Siler City. So OPC negotiated with Therapeutic Alternatives to maintain clinics part-time in both locations. Effective in January, Therapeutic Alternatives will operate the Pittsboro clinic 2 days per week, and the Siler City clinic will be open 3 days per week. Crisis services will be available throughout the county on the days the clinics are closed. During the month of January, they will continue to staff each clinic with "skeleton crews" on the days they will be closed, and the new schedule will then be fully implemented in February.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

#### *Joint CFAC Meeting with Division Director Steve Jordan*

This meeting, hosted by the CenterPoint CFAC, is scheduled for January 4h, from 5 – 7:00 P.M. The agenda will include discussion on Steve Jordan's philosophy and vision for DMH/DD/SAS, and on the anticipated budget cuts for next fiscal years (as well as the impact of these cuts on services). In addition, Mr. Jordan will provide updates on CABHAs and on the expansion of the Medicaid Waiver. Michael has reserved an agency vehicle and will be able to take 3 to 4 members. He reported that Benita plans to attend, but is going to drive herself. Edward, Shira, and Leslie agreed to attend, and will ride with Michael.

#### *Nomination of CFAC Officers*

In Edward's absence, Michael reported on the slate of officers for next year. Thus far, only the position of Treasurer is contested. Both Leslie and Steve are interested in serving in that post. In addition, Benita has agreed to serve as Chair, Heather as Vice-Chair, and Diane as Secretary. Michael will prepare ballots for the January election of officers.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

### *AQIC*

Michael reported that this Committee reviewed the OPC Mission/Vision statement & Code of Ethics. No changes were recommended. In addition, the Committee got an update on transition plans for consumers who are currently receiving services from providers who will not become CABHAs. OPC was expecting transition plans from 21 provider agencies, and 19 have been received. Of those received, 11 have been approved and 10 were still under review at the time of the meeting..

### *Client Rights Committee*

In Benita's absence, Michael reported that this committee granted a 90-day approval to one behavior plan that included the use of restrictive interventions. In addition, a new member (who is a Licensed Clinical Addiction Specialist) joined the Committee.

### *CFAC Workshop Committee*

Michael noted that this Committee would hold its initial meeting for the 2011 workshop next month, and asked for any suggestions on a topic or theme to be forwarded to committee members.

### *Peer Support Center Committee*

Members were reminded that Peer Support Center activity meetings take place on the 2nd Monday of each month, and NAMI Connection meetings are held on the 4th Wednesday of each month. All meetings are held at Freedom House from 3:30 – 5:30.

### *OPC Area Board*

Heather reported that the December Board meeting mainly focused on the merger. Board members also got the annual auditors report (which was very good) and learned of the recent developments on services in Chatham County.

### *State CFAC*

Pam was absent this evening, so there was no State CFAC report.

## **Check-in and Proposed Agenda for December Meeting:**

Election of Officers and Review of CFAC By-Laws