

**Consumer Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
December 18, 2007**

Members Present: T. Ackley, J. Ackley, Ballingall, Beckey, Berridge, Snyder, M. Wilson, R. Wilson (part)

Absent: Rauth, Thompson (ex) K. Miller (ex), Ostrander

Staff present: Smith, Szewczuk

CALL TO ORDER

Chair-elect Snyder called the meeting to order at 9:35 AM.

Introductions: None. Holiday refreshments were enjoyed during the meeting.

Public comment: None

Previous Minutes: MOTION by J. Ackley to accept the November minutes as written. SUPPORTED by M. Wilson. MOTION CARRIED.

Additions to the agenda: None

Executive Director Report: none

Reporting to the Board: None. R. Wilson had reported. The group knew that the membership of Ostrander was approved.

CAC Subcommittees: Legislative and Mental Health Awareness Objectives/charges

Non-CAC member were not available to attend today's meeting.

As defined last month: "The **Legislative Committee** should be focused on awareness issues that may affect legislative policy. How to affect our representatives voting power. How to affect change." This would apply to local, State and National government.

Mental Health Awareness:

- Schedules and plans events
- Publicizes mental health vs mental illness
- Maintains the Speakers Bureau for speaking engagements.
- Coordinates anti-stigma efforts
- Recognizes individuals that support mental health issues.

All recommendations are brought back to CAC for approval.

Event discussion: Some members believed the original purpose was to thank our representatives and community organizations for the positive work done so far. To award certificates of appreciation. (A simple panel of 5-6 individuals.) Focus on positives not negatives, without asking for something. Concern was expressed about who to thank and who could be missed. Others believed hearing “success stories” was wanted.

Suggestions on what could be done:

1. Thank you letters to organizations and representatives about the positive work they have done to support mental health. Include a statement about inviting them to a yet to be determined event in May.
2. Express problems/issues
3. Get on the agendas of various organizations to express our appreciation. (ex: County Commission)
4. Ask political candidates to a “Meet the Candidates event this fall.

To start Snyder will compose a thank you letter that will include mentioning a future event. (#1)

Comments were made about notification of committee meetings the need to set regular monthly dates for the meetings. (To be discussed later.)

Information Sharing:

Liaison:

- Staffing: Interviews are scheduled for the Customer Service Assistant position. The person will either be a current or prior consumer of mental health services. This person cannot be employed in a program that they receive services. Customer Services is not an authorized program, so there is no conflict.

Affiliation:

RCAC:

- Steve Sheldon from WCHO attended the last meeting to listen and discuss the Clinical Care meetings.
- More consumer involvement in various groups is desired.
- There is discussion about providing consumers with more advanced notice of PCP meetings.
- Melissa Mower attended to discuss the direction Encompass may go in the future. (Providing consumers access to their own records to review and help coordinate appointments.)
- Review PCP updates.

Local:

Interconnections/Drop In Center: M. Wilson

The coverage for the transition week for New Focus went well. 20 persons attended the first day, and some have attended since then. Regular hours are M-F 2:00-5:00 PM, Saturday Noon-5:00 PM and 1:00-5:00 PM Sunday.

Continuum of Care: Snyder

- The number of homeless youth is high and many additional are believed to be at risk of being homeless.

- 15 HARP vouchers are available with additional numbers available each month. (Expresses the acceptance for Section 8 vouchers for those that are in shelters, in hotels, or living on the street.) Sharon Hudson's agency will be in charge of enrollment.
- Another group may take over the Sharing the Warmth program next year.

RICC: The meeting was cancelled. No report.

Spotlight on Hope: They had a party last week and Ackley helped the 30 individuals make wreaths.

Lenawee Suicide Prevention Workgroup:

- A first anniversary event is planned for this week. The workgroup is partnering with the Anti-Bullying Taskforce, Family to Family, and Substance Abuse Coalition.
- So far 250 persons have attended Yellow Ribbon training.
- Plans are being developed to have a Train the Trainer session. Barb Smith is working with Addison Schools, Adrian Public Schools and Siena Heights University to set up Yellow Ribbon Chapters.
- A Victim's Service Unit Training will be held January 12 and 13, 2008 (20 hours). This group will respond with the police after an unexpected death.

Miscellaneous/Additional information sharing

A member expressed that many consumers believe that recovery now takes a back seat to the budget. Consumers expressing these concerns should be directed back to CMH and their caseworker. Others expressed that for many years there was money in the budget for consumers to get anything they wanted. That is no longer true. As well, Access staff are denying more individuals than before, and staff are working harder to maintain as many services as possible for current consumers. We may need to promote more of the positives. This discussion should continue.

Reporting to the Board:

December: R. Wilson will report that nothing needs to be reviewed. (M. Wilson has a conflict for Thursday afternoons.)

Next meeting:

- Pam Johnson from D.H.S. has requested to present on Family to Family. Snyder will notify her that she is on the agenda.
- Recovery and budgeting

MOTION by Beckey to adjourn at 10:55 am SUPPORTED by Berridge. MOTION CARRIED.

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, January 15, 2008 (third Tuesday each month)
9:30 AM

CMH