

**Approved
MINUTES**
of the
**Mental Health Planning Advisory Council
Nominating Committee**
meeting on
Wednesday, December 21, 2011
held at
Division of Health and Human Services
4126 Technology Way, First Floor Conference Room
Carson City, NV 89706

1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, INTRODUCTIONS –ALYCE THOMAS

Alyce called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. A verbal roll call was completed and Diane signed the attendance sheet.

Members Present:

- Jackson, Barbara – Consumer (via teleconference in Reno)
- Norris, Rene – Family Member, Chair (via teleconference in Las Vegas)
- Phinney, Cody – MHDS
- Alyce Thomas – Consumer (via teleconference in Las Vegas)
- Herrera, Corrie – Family Member (via teleconference in Elko)

Members Absent:

- Ash, Alisha – Consumer

Staff and guests:

- Dempsey, Diane – MHDS/MHPAC Admin. Asst.
- McKnight, Tami Jo – MHDS/Clinical Program Planner I

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment

3. REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES FROM PRIOR MHPAC NOMINATING COMMITTEE MEETING ON 12/13/10

Cody motioned to accept the Minutes as written. Barbara seconded the motion.

UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE: MOTION CARRIED

4. REVIEW AND DISCUSS MHPAC MEMBERSHIP VACANCY AND QUESTIONS (CONSUMER & FAMILY MEMBER)

Alyce turned the meeting over to Rene who joined in at this point.

Rene asked Cody to review the vacancies.

Cody stated Sharon Wilson's application to represent the Legal/Criminal Justice on the Council is pending at the Governor's Office, and Britanie Resnick's application to represent the Consumer is also pending. This leaves two Consumer/Family Member openings on the Council.

Discussion followed.

Alyce said they would really like to have a family member from the north, if possible, and asked if advertising has been done to let people know applications are being accepted again.

Cody stated flyers were sent to all of the agencies, DCFS and MHDS, requesting those be posted. There was a little activity prior to these two, with one applicant withdrawing and one who could not be reached.

Alyce said she was not sure how she missed that, because she would have put it at Desert Behavioral Health and several other Behavioral Health facilities.

Cody asked Diane to make a note that Alyce has places to post information if we need to do further recruitments.

Alyce requested the flyers be sent to her and she will get them out.

Discussion followed.

Alyce will ask the first question: "What has been your involvement with the mental health system in Nevada?" Barbara will ask question two: "What are the unmet needs and challenges facing the mental health system in Nevada?" Cody will ask the third question: "What qualities will you bring to the Council?" Rene will give the opening of what the Council does, the expectations of the Council, and how the nomination process works.

5. TELEPHONE INTERVIEW WITH APPLICANTS FOR MHPAC CONSUMER VACANCY

Christy Craig

Cody placed a phone call to Christy and she returned the call via teleconference.

Rene introduced the Committee and gave an overview of the Council.

Alyce asked the first question. Christy said about seven years ago the Eighth Judicial District Court was forced to put in place an oversight of the way they dealt with mentally ill defendants. Since then she has been the primary person inside the Clark County Public Defender's Office who deals with clients having competency and full-on mental health issues. It quickly became apparent to her of some of the other long term, ongoing problems they faced outside of the criminal justice system. Christy said that is what brought her to this organization today.

Barbara asked question two. Christy stated from her perspective services are sometimes very difficult to access for a fairly large chunk of the clients she works with. The facilities they need simply are not available in the State of Nevada. The availability of services, the extent of wrap-around services, particularly when it comes to folks who have criminal issues is just a huge problem.

Cody introduced herself and asked the third question. Christy said when reading about the Council, different members come from different areas of the community, and coming from the legal perspective, a significant chunk of the mentally ill have legal problems. Not having appropriate access to treatment means those folks continue to loop through the system, causing them to be unsettled and not have consistent care. This has a significant impact in the criminal field. Christy added she would bring to the table an understanding of some of the problems that come with someone, even jaywalkers or folks who have co-occurring problems along with their mental illness, and what it means to constantly be on that treadmill where they are arrested and put in jail, maybe they go on meds or maybe not, maybe there is follow up care or maybe not. There is very little continuity within the justice system, and she would really like to figure out a way to fix this among the various agencies, so that when these folks are continuously rearrested and sent through the process, it is not pointless.

Cody said from here, the Council will make a determination and recommendation to the Governor's Office. The Governor's application will then be sent to those applicants to complete, and the Governor's Office would make an appointment to the Council. Cody added that this process takes a bit of time and they would get back to her in about a week.

Christy concluded by sharing her thoughts and interest in having a voice that may help to serve some of the needs of the defendants who should not go to prison because there is no alternative. Christy thanked the Council for taking the time to interview her and expressed her hope in getting a spot on the Council.

Cody thanked Christy for her time and the teleconference with Christy ended.

Discussion followed.

Cody motioned to consider Christy Craig as a backup for the Legal/Criminal Justice representation on the Council should they be unable to clear the appointment of the Department of Corrections' representative. Alyce seconded the motion.

UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE: MOTION CARRIED

Barbara asked if another question could be added to the interview questions.

Cody said we could but not for this round.

Barbara said no, not for this round, but in the future. Barbara thinks it is important to know what the interviewees think of "What is recovery?" She believes that would give her a better idea of where they are coming from. Barbara said she thinks most people know what the challenges and the unmet needs are, but what is recovery.

Jeannie P. Smith

Cody placed a call to Jeannie and she returned the call via teleconference.

Rene introduced the Committee and gave an overview of the Council.

Alyce asked the first question. Jeannie stated her involvement, along with her husband's, has been through their son who was diagnosed bipolar about eight years ago and now has an actual diagnosis of schizo-affective. When he was first diagnosed, they read every book they could find, and then someone told them about NAMI. They took the family-to-family program and attended support groups. After a couple of years, they taught the educational portion several times and led the support groups. Their son's turning point came through the Mental Health Court and they are very supportive of that.

Barbara asked question two. Jeannie said awareness of the problem is the first thing. There is a program in Washoe County to erase the stigma and that's what we have to address. She personally does that by letting everybody know about all of her sons and this happens to be where her other son's area is, having a mental disorder. She is sure they need more funding and services but she would like to see things kept in place that were valuable to them, like the Mental Health Court and the Crisis Intervention team. She thinks they did a sensational job. Families need tremendous support in anyway we can find to help them know about the ramifications of medication, the side effects, and what the people go through. That is her primary thing – to have families better educated.

Cody introduced herself and asked the third question. Jeannie said as an educator, she has an extensive background in working with people, is patient, and has also been a

writer, so she can perhaps contribute in some way in that area. Jeannie concluded that she is eager to be a part of the Council.

Cody thanked Jeannie and described how the Council will make recommendations to the Governor's Office and the Governor's Office will make appointments to the Council. Cody advised Jeannie she completed the first step, the application. They will ask those people who are recommended to complete the Governor's application and that will have to be returned to the Governor through us. This process takes time. In the meantime, the pending members, if they are available, can come to the meetings and participate as public. All of the meetings are open to the public and anyone is welcome.

Jeannie asked how often the Council meets.

Rene answered quarterly, four times a year, and it is usually from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Rene asked Jeannie if that would be an issue and if she would be able to attend.

Jeannie said she would be able to attend.

Rene said if she joined one of the committees of the Council, they have an hour or two meeting at least once a month, depending on what is going on with that committee.

Jeannie said that would work fine.

Cody added that most of the meetings are by telephone or video conference, but they do try to have the whole group come together at least once a year in a face-to-face meeting.

Jeannie said that sounds fine and that would work.

Rene also thanked Jeannie for her time and said they would get back to her within a week.

Jeannie thanked the Council and the teleconference with Jeannie ended.

Discussion followed.

Alyce motioned to accept Jeannie Smith for consideration to the Governor's Office. Cody seconded the motion.

UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE: MOTION CARRIED

Rene remembered that before sending the application to the Governor's Office, it is presented to the whole Council.

Alyce amended her motion to present Jeannie Smith's application to the Council.

Rene said she brought this up because we have been telling the applicants we would get back to them in a week.

Cody said we will call them.

Susan Maunder

Cody placed a call to Susan and she returned the call via teleconference.

Rene introduced the Committee and gave an overview of the Council.

Alyce asked the first question. Susan said she has been a client in a clinic near her home in Nevada for approximately two years. She has been on an outpatient basis where they prescribe medication and attends a dialectic behavior therapy group, as well as sees a medication doctor and psychologist.

Barbara asked question two. Susan said one of the things she has personally experienced is the services available for someone labeled high functioning is little to non-existent. She believes there are many people who have needs that are not being met because they are not incapacitated enough to be on disability or inpatient. They would like to be working and be productive but have difficulties because of these problems.

Cody introduced herself and asked the third question. Susan said she has a lot of qualities she can bring to the Council. She has experience as a board member. She ran for office and was elected to the Health District Hospital Board in Castro Valley, California. That was several years ago. At the time they were going through an affiliation process because it was a stand-alone hospital that could not survive financially. They selected a partner to affiliate with, looked at many different organizations, and had a great deal of input from the community members. The platform she ran on was as a consumer of the hospital. She was very involved in the due diligence process. Afterwards, because of the restructuring, they had to select new board members and a new CEO, who is still in place. She was told she was one of the few board members who read the actual packets given for meetings. Susan said she is very diligent, does preparation, and works ahead of time. Susan concluded stating that the other thing she can bring as a client of mental health services is the firsthand experience of the good things that helped her and the frustrations of falling through the cracks within the system.

Cody thanked Susan.

Rene asked Susan if she had any questions.

Susan said yes and asked if the Council meets in Carson City.

Rene said most of the meetings are teleconferenced or phone conference calls. They do try to meet once a year as a group and that would be either in Carson City or Las Vegas.

Susan asked how long of a time period that would be for the meetings in Carson City or Las Vegas.

Rene said those are usually two day meetings because they have training on one day and the actual Council meeting on another day. The Council pays for the plane ticket and you get reimbursed for the hotel expense.

Susan asked what period of time the appointment is for.

Cody stated it varies, depending on the Governor.

Rene said we were requested by the Governor to put that in the bylaws.

That reminded Susan about what else she can bring to the Council. As a board member, she was also part of approving the policies and the new bylaws for when they had to restructure because of the affiliation. She was involved in every aspect of looking and reading over everything and checking to see how they fit in with the corporate structure to meet the community needs and that was in the bylaws or policies.

Rene asked if anyone had anything else and then informed Susan about the application process and that she would hear from us after the Council's next meeting in January 12, 2012.

Susan asked for a phone number in case she had any other questions.

Cody said she could reach us at the Office of Mental Health & Developmental Services at (775) 684-5984. This is Cody Phinney's direct line, or ask for Diane Dempsey.

Susan thanked everyone for their time and the teleconference with Susan ended.

Discussion followed.

Barbara motioned to accept Susan go before the Council via the Governor's Office. Cody seconded the motion.

UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE: MOTION CARRIED

6. FINALIZE AND APPROVE NEW MEMBER RECOMMENDATIONS

Rene asked if they needed to vote on the candidates again.

Cody said no. Cody also stated, for clarification, the Council will take Jeannie and Susan forward to the whole Council. Ms. Craig will be notified that should that position become vacant, her application would then be taken before the Council at that time.

The Committee agreed with that.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

8. SET DATE AND TOPICS FOR FOLLOW-UP MEETING

Cody motioned to table setting another meeting date until after the next quarterly meeting. Alyce seconded the motion.

UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE: MOTION CARRIED

9. ADJOURNMENT

Alyce moved to adjourn. Barbara seconded the motion.

UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE: MOTION CARRIED

Meeting adjourned at 11:22 am.