

**MINUTES**  
*of the*  
**Mental Health Planning Advisory Council**  
*meeting on*  
**Tuesday, February 15, 2011**  
*held at*  
Division of Mental Health and Developmental Services  
4126 Technology Way, Second Floor Conference Room  
Carson City, Nevada 89706

**1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, INTRODUCTIONS –RENE NORRIS, CHAIR**

Rene called the meeting to order at 9:39 am. Roger completed a verbal roll call. Tanya sent the sign in sheet around and completed the sheet for those on the phone and video.

Members Present:

- Ash, Alisha – Consumer/Youth (via teleconference in Las Vegas)
- Bousquet, Judy – Consumer (via teleconference in Henderson)
- Ford, Lisa – DOE (via video conference in Las Vegas)
- Herrera, Corrie – Family Member (via teleconference in Elko)
- Jackson, Barbara – Consumer
- Merrill, Mechelle – DETR
- Norris, Rene – Family Member, Chair (via teleconference in Las Vegas)
- Phinney, Cody - MHDS
- Polakowski, Ann – DCFS (via teleconference in Las Vegas)
- Scofield, Robert – DOC (proxy for Steve Daniels)
- Thomas, Alyce – Consumer (via teleconference in Henderson (proxy for Patricia Peterman))
- Wilhelm, Layne – SAPTA
- Willingham, Bryce – Consumer (via teleconference in Laughlin)

Members Absent:

- Lawrence, Coleen – DHCFF, excused
- Peterman, Patricia – Family Member, excused (Alyce Thomas – Proxy)
- Snead, Lydia – Family Member, excused

Staff and guests:

- Benitez, Tanya – MHDS/MHPAC Admin. Asst.
- Dermody, Retta – NV PEP
- Martin, Judy – NV PEP
- Mowbray, Roger – Grant Writer

## **2. REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES FROM PRIOR MHPAC MEETING ON 1/5/11**

Rene asked for comments and/or questions. Cody said on page 23 the first line should be, “Roger said for the first time we did the block grant defense **via** video.”

Alyce motioned to approve the minutes with the changes noted. Corrie seconded the motion.

UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE: MOTION CARRIED

## **3. MENTAL HEALTH MONTH**

Rene gave the floor to Alyce. Alyce asked Tanya if she has heard from the contact in regard to the bags. Tanya said she has received some information; however, she has not received the invoice. Alyce said the company needs some information in a certain format and then they will send the invoice. The Mental Health Month Committee wanted to find out if the Council would like to do just the bags this year or if they want the buttons also. Traditionally the Council has done the buttons. Roger asked the cost the Council will be paying for the bags. Alyce said the Council voted to pay \$800. Cody said the Division was under the impression that the bags would be in lieu of the buttons. In order to do both, they will have to see if the money is there. Cody asked if they can discuss what the preference of the Council is and then authorize the staff to move forward. Alyce thought the Committee was attempting to do something more cost effective and different. Rene opened the floor for discussion.

Judy said the bags would be more practical. Layne said in prior discussions he thought the bags were chosen due to the longevity of the bags. Rene asked the public for their opinion. The members of the public said the bags would be nice, that way they can have items to put in the bags. Cody asked if there are still other groups that will be helping with the purchase of the bags. Alyce said G & J Family Life Center and the Council. The other company from Reno, the Committee never heard back from. Corrie asked what G & J is. Alyce said it is a family life center and they help the family with finding employment and other aspects of the family. Alyce sent a letter to the Center for Independent Living, to see if they wanted to be a part of this. Corrie said she will talk with them and see if they would be interested. She asked what the amount of the contribution. Alyce will call her this afternoon to give her the amount. She said she left a message for NV PEP also. Alyce was looking for companies in both the north and south. The bags will be around for at least a year.

#### **4. ACCESS TO CHILD/ADOLESCENT SERVICES**

Rene gave the floor to Roger. Roger said the Committee for Access to Child/Adolescent Service (ACAS) met approximately a week and a half ago. The purpose given to the Committee at the last Council meeting was to look at ways to reformat their purpose and to gear it along the lines of legislative advocacy.

The suggestions that came out of the Committee was to rename the group the Consumer and Family Member Advocacy Committee, and for the group to be composed of strictly consumer and family members, and the state representatives would serve in an advisory capacity. One of the questions that came up is will this be advocacy for all consumers, adults and children/adolescents or just children and adolescents. A little over a year ago the Council formulated two Committees. One was the Clubhouse Committee, which is primarily adult focused, and the other was the ACAS. In both the ACAS Committee and the Executive Committee meeting the consensus was the entire Council should have this discussion. The other activities suggested; a letter to the first lady, a letter to the legislature to address the broad range of access to children and adolescent services; and third a more specific letter in regard to the BDR that DCFS submitted.

Roger asked for discussion. Corrie said if they are going to be advocating for mental health services, they should be advocating for all. Bryce said the children are going to become adolescents and the adolescents are going to become adults, so it is not a question of who as it is when. Judy said to cover all ages makes sense and pin point the transition from adolescents to the adult aspect. Rene asked if there is anything going to the Legislature that has to deal with the transition. Alyce said she is not aware of any. They need to advocate on behalf of all. She believes it would be good to have one ongoing Committee to advocate on behalf of all. They would do the work and bring it to the Council for approval. She believes it would be very amenable and then they are involved in all aspects.

Rene said this is why they have two separate Committees, the Clubhouse, which is more toward the adults and the ACAS. These are the ones that were determined important to adults and children. Alyce said they need a Clubhouse because that is something they are working on and different. One day it will be established and they will not need a separate entity of the Council to do this. She sees the Clubhouse as a separate entity from advocating for children, adolescents, and adults, because it is working and developing a certain item, much like Mental Health Month Committee. Corrie said the Clubhouse is very specific for a very specific area and it can be a model for the rest of the state. The Committee talked about education and outreach that needs to be done for all ages. They need to concentrate on this. Alyce said it is very important and they should have the Clubhouse, but she believes they should do advocacy for all ages. Rene said she feels they should have a Committee focusing on children's issues. She does not want a repeat of the past, when they were doing sub-grants from the Council; they were giving the money to adults. Corrie said she doesn't want to forget the children. It starts with the children. If they start with the children, they are more likely to have better services as adults. Bryce said that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. Cody said she would like to point out that two of the main activities the Committee has proposed are focused on children. Rene asked if they widen it out to include adults, would they spread the Committee too thin. Alyce asked about having the agenda for one meeting focused on children and the next focused on adults. Corrie said she believes education and outreach are very important and should be a large part. Rene asked if the Committee will sunset when the legislature is out. Alyce said it would be a Committee that will not sunset and that is why they want to have it focus on all ages. Rene said they would need another Committee that focuses on just children's issue. There is one that focuses on adult issues. Corrie said the Clubhouse is one specific issue and is not a broad advocacy Committee. Rene said the ACAS was not set up to be advocating for the legislation, it was to identify the barriers for children getting services and determining what they can do to help and then take it to the Commission. Corrie said advocacy to the legislature would be the most effective place to identify those barriers and identify the bills they need to advocate for regarding children. She believes they can do children and adults well. Rene said they can focus on an issue for the adults but they can not focus on something for the children. Judy said Clubhouse will be there to help in the transition from adolescents to adults. Rene said they are discussing switching from ACAS to advocacy because of the legislative session. Layne said they looked at the bill submitted by DCFS and they chose to support it because it aligns with what the ACAS Committee was looking at. DCFS has identified a ten year plan. How can they support this, as state employees they are not able to but by bringing in the consumer and family members and retargeting the group they can provide the support. Roger said the purpose of the meeting today is because of the urgency and the short time period of the legislative session to focus on if the Council would like to advocate to the Legislature then the Committee needs authorization. After the session the Council can reassess the role of the Committee and any gaps that may need to be filled by an additional Committee if there are resources

available. The timing of the Council, if it is their desire, approving the Committee to move forward is crucial. The Council may want the Committee to look at is the budget hearings. This is where some very significant decisions will be made, they are not bills, they are appropriations and there are some very difficult decisions that need to be made on the cuts coming up. This is something that will affect the adults as well as children. Alisha asked when the session ends. Roger said early June.

Rene asked if there are any bills of interest for adults. Roger said there is one in regard to outpatient services. Cody said it has to do with involuntary admission to outpatient services. Roger said there are two sides to the bill. Rene said if they require people to do therapy, wouldn't they have to supply it. Roger said there is a fiscal side. Barbara said the Council needs to take a look of that bill; it gives a lot of power. It will knock everyone's civil rights out. It will take them back to 1920. Roger paraphrased for those who did not hear. Corrie asked if they can find out what the bill number is. Roger said he will send the information out to everyone.

Roger said another issue the Council needs to consider in regard to reformatting this Committee or creating a new Committee is the degree of authorization the Council gives the Committee to speak on behalf of the consumers and family members of the Council. For example: if the Committee met and felt a bill is what the Committee wanted to support, does the Council want to give the Committee the authority to move forward. Things are going to be happening very quickly this session. The Committee can not wait until the next meeting in May to get approval. Many of the decisions will have already been made by then. Corrie said if they are getting advice from the state workers, she believes they should have the authority. Rene said she believes there should be a way the Committee can get input from the Council members. Cody said if it involves making a decision on behalf of the Council, it would have to be a public meeting. Rene said she wants the members of the Council to be able to give their opinions to the Committee so they have comments from the Council members to share with the Legislature. Cody said they have to keep the Open Meeting Law in mind, if they are representing the Council and the Council has not had public meetings to discuss then they have gone outside the requirements. The Attorney for the Division would be very concerned. Roger said if the Council authorizes the Committee to make decisions on behalf of the Council and represent them in front of the Legislature, they would have to do it within the Open Meeting Law. It is easier when there are fewer members and they do not have the logistics of the full Council meeting. Rene asked if before they go in front of the legislature, they will be meeting. Roger said that would be one of the items the Council would want to consider. Rene said they need a consensus among the Committee. They do not want three or four of the Committee members giving three or four different opinions of the Council. Roger said they can require a majority or unanimous vote. Alisha said with a majority vote some members will be offended. If someone else has a very strong opinion, there will be loose strands. Roger said

that is a very good point. Rene asked if other Council members can supply their comments during public comment either by attending or sending an email and having their opinions read into public comment or during the discussion prior to the decision.

Roger gave an idea for a possible motion. The name; the decision as to whether the Committee has to be unanimous or majority vote; all subject to open meeting law to allow for public comment for public and council members; and the three things they specifically get involved with; and maybe an open ended assignment.

Barbara said she is concerned about the unanimous decision. She is not sure the Council understands what the bill is. She does not see how a unanimous decision can be made about her rights. Cody said what would happen is if they can not reach a unanimous decision then the Committee would not be able to take any action. Barbara said civil rights are more important than a unanimous decision. The Council is supposed to be an advocate for things that are wrong. Rene asked Barbara if she would like to be a member of the Committee. Cody said rather than being a member, she can act in an advisory capacity.

Robert asked if anyone knows anything about this bill. Alisha said most of the bills are written in a way that does not make sense to her, so she would not be able to grasp what the bill is about. Rene said a lot of consumers, family members, are not going to understand the bills. Barbara said if they researched this bill they would find it is very clear. Roger said in each bill there is the plain language version that starts the bill. He will work to support the Committee and Council in providing this information. Barbara believes it is SB94.

Cody said Marty will bring a copy. Barbara said this bill put her in a position she did not want to be in being a state employee and a consumer. She understands why the bill is being introduced and she understands that her rights are being taken away. Cody said because she is a state employee, she would not be a member of the Committee but would provide answers to questions in an advisory capacity, as the other state employees will also. They will get copies of the bill to anyone who would like one today and email the link.

Corrie asked if they need a motion to address the committee or are they still in discussion. Cody said the bill is AB94. This is something that was seen in previous legislation as well. It authorizes the involuntary admission of certain services of mental illness into programs that are community based or outpatient services under certain circumstances. They will send this out to every as soon as possible. Rene asked how it differs from a legal 2000. Cody said this is outpatient services. With a legal 2000 the person would be admitted to an observation service with 24 hour care. Cody clarified that she is neutral in regard to this bill and is just providing information. Alisha said she thought when it is mandatory it is an emergency. Cody agreed that currently it is. The information in the bill specifies what all the circumstances would be. Layne said he believes

this grew out of a similar service in Arizona. Cody said there is also a similar law in New York. Judy asked if this is addressing people who are showing dangerous behavior to themselves or the community. Barbara said the way she read the bill, she can be arguing with her spouse in the grocery store, they can tell her she has to go and do this program and this program. Right now she has the freedom to choose her road of recovery and how to get there. This bill will take that away from her. Cody said the Council needs to read this and understand what it states and then address this on a future agenda.

Roger said Corrie had suggested a motion. He asked if Rene is comfortable with entertaining a motion. Judy asked if they have any way of checking Arizona and New York to see how successful this law has been. Cody said they can check into that and another question they may want to look at is the cost. Bryce would like to know who the authority is making the decision. Cody said the court makes the decision. Rene said she is not sure how they can provide services for people who do not want it when they can not provide it for those who do.

Roger said the notes he has is the name would change from ACAS to Consumer and Family Member Advocacy Committee and that it will meet on a regular basis in compliance with open meeting law, have public comment, the group will be authorized to represent the consumer and family members of the Council at legislative hearings. He asked if they want a unanimous approval or a majority and perhaps provide the dissenting opinion.

Corrie motioned to adopt with what Roger proposed with the majority. Judy seconded.

Rene asked for discussion. Alisha asked about the membership of the Committee. Roger said the consumer and family members of the Committee are: Corrie, Rene, Patricia, Lydia, and Alyce. Alisha asked if the Committee will be discussing AB94. Rene said yes. Rene asked if there are any members who would like to join. Alisha will attend as public at this time.

Robert said he would suggest considering the proposal with a majority vote and the dissenting vote be provided with the testimony. Barbara agreed. Rene asked for other discussion. Roger said Patricia feels very strongly about this, but they may want to appoint a vice chair for the Committee due to some health issues. Rene will step in if Patricia is unable to attend.

Corrie amended her motion to go with the suggestion to have the majority and publish any dissenting opinion. Layne seconded the motion

**UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE: MOTION CARRIED**

## **5. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Retta Dermody said she would like to support Rene in her concern that the children will be forgotten. It has happened in the past and they need to know that early intervention can make a lot of changes for the family and children.

Roger went over the procedure for giving a proxy. There have been a few situations where meetings have not been held due to a quorum not being present. It makes it difficult due to the Open Meeting Law, because it takes time to reschedule meetings. Tanya and Roger will be working for RSVP's and encourage people if they are not going to be able to attend to send a proxy. This will ensure that the Council continues to run efficiently.

## **6. SET DATE AND TOPICS FOR FOLLOW-UP MEETING**

The next quarterly meeting is May 17, 2011. The next meeting for the reformatted Committee is set for 2/22/2011 at 8:30 am. Rene asked Tanya to send the agenda to all members of the Council so they will have the opportunity to attend.

## **7. ADJOURNMENT**

Cody motioned to adjourn. Barbara seconded.

UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE: MOTION CARRIED

Meeting adjourned at 11:05 am.