

MINUTES
of the
Mental Health Planning Advisory Council
Nominating Committee
meeting on
Wednesday, July 8, 2009
held at
Division of Mental Health and Development Services
4126 Technology Way, Second Floor Training Room
Carson City, Nevada 89706

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

The Chair, Rene Norris called the meeting to order at 1:09 pm and requested a verbal roll call. Tanya completed the sign in sheet.

Members present:

- Jackson, Barbara – Consumer
- Norris, Rene – Chair, Family Member
- Snead, Lydia – Nevada PEP, Family Member

Members absent:

- Thomas, Alyce –Consumer

Staff and guests:

- Benitez, Tanya – MHPAC Administrative Assistant
- Mowbray, Roger – Grant Writer

2. REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES FROM PRIOR MHPAC NOMINATING COMMITTEE MEETING ON 5/4/09

Rene asked for discussion of the minutes. Lydia said page five, section four, half way through the paragraph the word are should be area.

Lydia motioned to accept minutes with changes. Barbara seconded the motion.

UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE: MOTION CARRIED

Rene asked for discussion of the November minutes. She said it is not mentioned on the agenda, but they have not been approved at this time. She asked if the Committee could go ahead and approve them. Roger said that based on the previous minutes from 5-4-09, the November minutes were tabled until the current meeting, so the Committee can go ahead and review/approve. Rene asked for discussion of the November minutes.

Lydia motioned to accept the minutes as written. Barbara seconded the motion.

UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE: MOTION CARRIED

3. REVIEW AND DISCUSS MHPAC MEMBERSHIP VACANCY AND QUESTIONS (FAMILY MEMBER)

Rene asked about the application that had been approved by the Council for the consumer position. Roger stated that the application is at the Governor's Office for review. Rene verified that the Committee is looking at the family member vacancy. Rene asked if it is a family member of an adult or child. Roger said according to the way the Block Grant is submitted, it states "the law stipulates that not less than 50% of the members of the Planning Council must be individuals who are not State employees or providers of mental health services..." it goes on "the law also requires that the ratio of parents of children with SED to other members of the Planning Council be sufficient to provide adequate representation of such children in the deliberations of the Council." Discussion ensued as to whether the vacancy is a family member of child with SED or an adult with SMI. Barbara asked if a person applying for a position with the Council has a child or member of their family that has a mental illness and the mentally ill person dies, can that person still be considered. Rene deferred the question to Roger. Roger said the Committee would probably want to look at whether the person is active and continues to be active in the advocacy for the mentally ill.

Rene asked if they should be talking to people to fill the position because the Committee is not sure what term limits the Council will vote on, or should it be put off and done after the Council. Roger said that on the most recent appointment, the Governor's Office did it for 3 years. Rene said if the person becomes chair and they serve just one term as chair, that is two years, and then that person is still on the Executive Committee for another two years as the acting past vice chair. Roger has a call into the Governor's Office.

4. REVIEW AND DISCUSS APPLICANTS FOR MHPAC FAMILY MEMBER VACANCY

Rene suggested going through the applications knowing that it has to be some type of family member, whether it is a parent of an adult or child. It needs to be a family member and the Committee can decide on the one that is the best for the

Council. Lydia asked if there were people scheduled for interviews. Tanya said that yes, there are. In regard to Cheryl Basso, Tanya attempted to contact and has had no success. Rene said that if the email came back, then the work phone will probably not be any good either. Rene asked if there were others on the list that has already been interviewed. Tanya said Sarita, Kathleen, and Alisha were all interviewed at the last Nominating meeting, so she did not set up another interview with them. The two that have not been interviewed is Corrie Herrera and Michael Howie. Tanya has received confirmation from both of them that they are still interested and looking forward to speaking with the Committee. Roger said both Corrie and Michael have checked family member and provider. There is some concern that Corrie may be coming from more of a provider position than a family member. Rene said that Michael's application is almost completely from a provider's viewpoint.

Rene asked about Sarita. Tanya said the first time she was interviewed, the Committee had decided on another person but asked that her application be held. The Committee has spoken to twice. The first time, there was a positive response, the second time, there was comment about digression.

The three questions asked of each person is: 1) What has been your involvement with the Mental Health System in Nevada; 2) What are the unmet needs and challenges facing the Mental Health System in Nevada; and 3) What qualities will you bring to the Council?

Cheryl: Lydia asked if she could be counted as a family member. Rene said that she highlighted consumer, family member, provider, other. Lydia said that the Committee was only able to get the provider perspective. The Committee had asked her to revise her application to come from the family member perspective. Lydia spoke with her on 6/23/08. Rene asked for a vote. Lydia - Abstained, Barbara - No, Rene - No.

Corrie: Rene introduced the Nominating Committee and thanked Corrie for her time and taking the time to speak with them. Roger went over what the Mental Health Planning and Advisory Council does and its scope and responsibilities. The Council is a part of a Block Grant that is received every year. MHPAC is a consumer driven group. More than 50% of the Council must be Consumers, Family Members of adults and children. There are certain state agencies that are mandated to be a part of the Council. Roger went over general meetings and the committee meetings. Rene asked question 1. Corrie said personally her older brother was involved with mental health. She worked with her family in taking him to appointments, sat in on some of the counseling sessions. Through work she does collaboration with the mental health office in Elko. They have mutual consumers; they provide a lot of the independent living skills, training, and advocacy. A large percentage of the consumers she works with are involved with mental health. Lydia asked question 2. Corrie said from a rural perspective, access to a Psychiatrist. They really need a treatment center in the rural area. It is

very devastating for people to have to travel to Reno or Las Vegas to go into a treatment facility. They have to be away from their family and not have access to that. Barbara asked question 3. Corrie said she believes she can provide a rural perspective. They have a lot of needs in the rural area. She believes she is compassionate, and she listens well. She has been there with her family and she knows what it is like as much as she can for the consumer. Rene asked if there were any follow up questions. Lydia asked if Corrie is able to travel when needed for meetings. Corrie responded yes. Rene said the Council meets as a whole four times a year, and would Corrie be able to do that. Corrie responded that it would not be a problem. Rene said that the Council attempts to schedule all the meetings a year in advance. Lydia gave an example that the next upcoming Council meeting is in August and is one that has to be face to face. Roger went over the selection process. The Nominating Committee is the first of three steps, then they put forth a person to the Council, then the person is notified by Tanya and requested to complete an application to be submitted to the Governor's Office by Tanya. Roger did say that it can take anywhere from a couple of weeks to a couple of months depending on how busy the Governor's Office is. Corrie verified that the application for the Governor's Office would not be done until after the August meeting. Corrie said she is ok with the questions. She believes that the Council is very important. Rene asked Corrie if she had any questions. Corrie did not. Rene thanked her for her time and said that the Council meeting is not until the 12th of August, so it will be after that before Corrie hears anything.

Lydia said that she can hear the sadness from her. She is still in a lot of pain from the grieving of her brother. Lydia said Corrie would be able to represent the family perspective. Rene said working in Independent Living and helping people get services through the state.

Michael: Rene introduced the Nominating Committee to Michael. Roger went over what the Mental Health Planning and Advisory Council does and it's scope and responsibilities. Roger went over the selection process and the meeting requirements. Roger confirmed that Michael would be available to travel and/or meet via video conference. Rene asked question 1. Michael said he has spent 34 years in the behavioral health field. He hasn't worked for the state since 1992. He has been attending the MHDS Commission meetings for the last 17 years or so. Rene asked for clarification on his application it states that he is a family member. She asked that he go into the family member aspect. Michael said his daughter was diagnosed about three or four years ago and has been seeking outpatient services as well as outpatient general behavioral health services since then. She just turned 18. Lydia asked question 2. Michael said rural clinics are a disaster. There are not enough physicians. Nevada has one of the highest suicide rates in the nation, lowest per capita expense on services, and lowest inpatient bed to population ratio. Rates for both Medicaid & Medicare are astonishingly low. Just recently SNAMHS med clinic was closed because they did not have any physicians. The emergency rooms are clogged because there are not enough beds in the hospitals or triage. Children's Medicaid rates were just cut 21% in Oct

2008. Lydia asked what the unmet needs that his daughter might be facing. Michael responded that his daughter is fortunate enough that they are able to pay cash, and health insurance. She doesn't have a lot of unmet needs. He has been working in and around the system since 1979. He understands how devastating it is and how helpless a person feels when it is a family member, regardless of the amount of services in place and the kind of supports that family needs. NAMI has become much better in the recent years. Barbara asked question 3. Michael said he has really good boundaries. He would not use a seat on the Council for any gain of a behavioral health provider or agency in Nevada. He would only be concerned with state specific issues. Having a 30 year history in Nevada around behavioral health allows him to have some experience. Not working for the state since 1992 also gives him objectivity, having spent his entire adult life being with and treating, understanding the concept of recovery and building on that. Rene asked if there were any follow up questions. Lydia asked if he is willing to travel to meet the needs of the Council. Michael said he has an office in both Reno and Las Vegas, so he is happy to travel. He said that he is very interested in the rural areas. Rene mentioned the rural monitoring committee and what they do. Roger went over the Committees that report back to the Council at the quarterly meetings. Michael said he is very interested in the rural area. He asked if the quarterly meetings are mixed between the north and south. Rene confirmed that usually it is the Executive Committee and the support staff that travels, and then there is one time per year that the entire Council meets. Michael asked if the Commission approves the members of the Council. Rene said the Council is appointed by the Governor once he receives the Council recommendation. Michael asked if there is a representative for the Commission. Rene said the Council and the Commission are working on their working relationship to further the advocacy during the Legislative sessions. Michael said that he is a family member and is also in the business. He hopes that being in the business does not disqualify him. Roger went over the membership requirements in the block grant.

5. FINALIZE AND APPROVE NEW MEMBER RECOMMENDATION

Rene asked for discussion. Lydia said she would have to go with Corrie. Barbara said Corrie. Rene said Corrie. Rene said she would like to see Alisha as a youth representative.

Lydia motioned to bring Corrie Herrera to the Council at the August 12th meeting. Barbara seconded the motion.

UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE: MOTION CARRIED

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

Roger said the Governor's Office has asked that the Council establish in the bylaws a term of appointment. In the past, when members have been appointed, their appointment letters have read "at the pleasure of the Governor" with no end date. Roger said the Governor's Office provided him with a list of members and there are end dates for each member. It may be something that was arbitrary put in or it may be the Governor's discretion of "at the pleasure of the Governor." Roger has drafted some possible changes to the bylaws with the terms of appointments and that members can be reappointed with no limits to the number of times they can be reappointed. Lydia asked if after the August 12th meeting, she would have to reapply on the Council? Roger said it is possible to grandfather existing members in and just apply this to new members. Rene clarified that once the Governor puts dates on the appointments, those dates would be in effect. Roger concurred and said that the recent appointments have end dates on their appointment letters. At this time, almost all members of the Council expire on April 5th or 10th of 2010. Due to turnover in both the Division of Health and Human Services and the Governor's Office, the historic background regarding the dates is not available. Barbara asked if the Advisory Council will meet before the Executive Committee. Roger said the Executive Committee will be meeting later in the afternoon today. Barbara, Lydia, and Rene agreed to send a copy of their appointments to Tanya.

Rene asked for comment. Roger read information regarding the officer nominations from the bylaws. Rene said in the past, the Council has done it right at the meeting. There was discussion as to whether the Nominating Committee should make nominations for the officers of the Council. Rene said with the current climate, it would be best to do it from the floor. Lydia agreed with Rene. Barbara asked if it could be done both ways. Discussion ensued. Discussion ensued in regard to requesting another member to be a part of the Nominating Committee. Roger went over the bylaws stating that with the exception of the Executive Committee and Nominating Committee, the Chair is to appoint members to the Committees. The Nominating Committee shall be appointed by the Council. Roger said that the Council would need to nominate people for the Committee and then vote a member of the Council into the Nominating Committee.

7. SET DATE AND TOPICS FOR FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE MEETING

Meeting set for Wednesday, September 2, 2009

8. ADJOURNMENT

Lydia motioned to adjourn. Barbara seconded the motion.
Meeting adjourned at 2:58pm