

MINUTES
of the
Mental Health Planning Advisory Council
Executive Committee
meeting on
Monday, February 7, 2011
held at
Substance Abuse Prevention & Treatment Agency (SAPTA)
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 11:05 am. Verbal roll call completed. Tanya completed sign-in sheet.

Members Present:

- Norris, Rene – Family Member, Chair (via teleconference in Las Vegas)
- Caloiaro, Dave – MHDS (proxy for Cody Phinney)
- Polakowski, Ann – DCFS (via teleconference in Las Vegas)
- Thomas, Alyce – Consumer (via teleconference in Las Vegas)

Members Absent:

- Peterman, Patricia – Family Member (excused)
- Phinney, Cody – MHDS (Dave Caloiaro attended as proxy)

Staff and guests:

- Benitez, Tanya – MHDS/MHPAC Admin. Asst.
- Mowbray, Roger – Grant Writer

2. REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES FROM PRIOR MHPAC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING ON 11/8/2010

Rene asked for comments and/or changes. Ann motioned to approve the minutes as written. Dave seconded the motion.

UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE: MOTION CARRIED

3. REVIEW AGENDA REQUESTS AND SET AGENDA FOR 2/15/11 MEETING

Roger went through the agenda requests. The first is Activities for the Nevada Chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI). In response to how this subject relates to the work of the Council – Collaboration between the Council and the local chapter of NAMI will improve the Council's effectiveness as an advocate for consumers of the mental health system in Nevada. Roger has not heard from Lydia in regard to this item. Roger said it is possible that NAMI will not be interested in participating. Ann asked what they are asking them to participate in doing. Roger believes Lydia suggested them meeting with the Council to further the collaboration. Last week the Legislature had budget hearings and at the hearing for MHDS and DCFS, several members of NAMI spoke up in advocacy. He believes the intent is to get the collaboration going and find out what their concerns are and take it into consideration on any action the Council may take. Ann asked if they know why they may not want to participate. Roger is not sure why. Tanya said approximately a year and a half ago she was contacted by NAMI and asked to no longer send the public postings to them. Dave asked if there are regional chapters in the north and south and are they talking statewide or just one area. Roger said it is his understanding that the regional are very closely related to the statewide. He believes it is both. Ann asked if Bryce is active with NAMI. Tanya clarified that both Bryce and Judy are active with NAMI. Ann said it is interesting that there are active Council members who are active in NAMI, but a shut out by NAMI toward the Council. Dave said NAMI in the north was a key participant with the May Mental Health Month activities last year.

The next item is Adams House/Clubhouse. This relates to the Council's commitment to Adams House. The chair of the Clubhouse Committee wishes to continue to support the project as they include other non-profits to join and come together in a joint effort. Rene asked if it something for this agenda or the meeting in May. Roger said it may be relevant to the legislative session. The main purpose of the meeting next week is to talk about the Access to Child/Adolescent Services Committee (ACAS) and the decision to reformat their goals and make it more of an advocacy group. The question came up, does the new role of the ACAS include advocacy of just children or adults too. What he heard is that they should be advocating for the full system. When the two Committees were formed, one was to address children's services and one for adult services. Alyce said she thought the Clubhouse Committee was formed to start a Clubhouse, she did not realize it was for adult advocacy for mental health. Roger said she is right, the Committee was formed to help form a Clubhouse for adults and he believes Judy wants to report on how things have changed and where they are at this point. They have run into a number of complications. Other than some

meetings there has not been specific progress made toward the goal. Alyce said if this item has anything to do with advocacy, then it should be on this agenda. Dave asked if this group would go before the Legislature and formally advocate during the session or advocate in a general sense that may or may not include formal advocacy at the Legislature. Alyce said her thought is the advocacy charged by the Federal Government for the Council. Rene said there were discussions of how the Council can advocate during the legislative session with Judy from NMHPAC and protecting the people who are state employees. Roger said the course of the conversation of the Committee started out as advocating for the BDR of DCFS for the changes to the children's mental health system. There seemed to be an interest in the group, the non state employee members of the Committee to get permission from the Council to represent the Council at a hearing on that particular bill. It was later Corrie brought up the question as to whether this group would advocate for adults too. Roger suggested they continue with the advocacy with the children's issues as far as any appearances to the Legislature and direct activities. Alyce agrees she is concerned they are not well enough formed to do much advocating for both issues when they do not understand what is going on with the adult issues at this time. She believes it would be good to get a report and then move forward. As the children are more prepared, they are able to approach the Council and the Council has something they can advocate for. Dave asked if the Clubhouse is on the same page, to make sure they are not blurring the issue by combining. He asked if they are able to request that. Roger said he does not believe Judy's request is not to encourage advocacy by the Council to the Legislature, because there is not anything legislatively necessary for Adams House other than funding. He believes she is attempting to continue the interest. It may be appropriate to demonstrate to the Council that they do have some focus on adults with the Clubhouse Committee.

Roger said the draft agenda has the basic items, and then there are three items: Adams House/Clubhouse update, Mental Health Month update, and Access to Child/Adolescent Services update. This is where Patricia will present the proposal to change the focus of that Committee to the Consumer and Family Member Advocacy Committee.

Dave motioned to include the Clubhouse on the agenda. Alyce seconded the motion.

UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE: MOTION CARRIED

Rene asked if they need to go over the ACAS information also. Roger said there will be an agenda item to change the name and purpose of ACAS to Consumer and Family Member Advocacy Committee and they will represent the Council at legislative hearings in favor of the DCFS BDR for the children's mental health plan. The BDR was discussed at great length at the Council meeting in January. The Council will need to weigh what sort of authority and responsibility they will give this Committee to represent the Council and what type of feedback the

Council receives. Roger gave an example. Rene is concerned after the legislative session; the Committee may not return to being the Access to Child/Adolescent Services Committee where they look into the barriers of children receiving services or so more children can receive access to services. Roger said he sees the benefits of this change as a good starting point for the Council to pursue the federally mandated goal to advocate. To his knowledge, the Council has never gone to the legislature to advocate on a particular subject. He said if the Council wants to get into that realm, they only have the opportunity every two years and it happens quickly. By doing this they may be able to set the stage for other advocacy efforts in the next session; determine what type of support they receive from the Council. If they define the role of this Committee to be just for this legislative session and just for one particular issue, then they have set some boundaries and they can learn from that, and then be prepared for the next session. Alyce said in 2000 and 2002, the Council had a Legislative Committee that represented and advocated for bills and they partnered with CAN and NAMI in their advocating. The Committee came into effect approximately four or five months before the legislative session and they advocated for both children and adults. Rene asked if Alyce is proposing making a new Committee just for the legislative session. Alyce said she was explaining how it was done historically. Roger thanked Alyce for the clarification.

Dave asked if the ACAS Committee would become the Consumer and Family Member Advocacy Committee and if so, would that only be for the legislative session and focus on legislative issues. Roger said the conversation at the Committee meeting was to present this idea to the Council for their thoughts and direction. He is not sure if Patricia had a formal plan worked out. He believes she wanted to get the approval and direction from the Council to proceed as to whether it is a short term Committee or replacing the existing Committee. Dave said his concern would be if the approach is to replace the ACAS with the Consumer and Family Member Advocacy Committee that would be just for the legislative session and that stops. He wants to make sure that both Committees will not go away.

Alyce motioned to add the Access to Child/Adolescent Services Committee update with action to be placed on the agenda for the 2/15/11 meeting. Ann seconded the motion.

UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE: MOTION CARRIED

Ann motioned to have the Mental Health Month update on the agenda for 2/15/2011. Alyce seconded the motion.

UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE: MOTION CARRIED

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Rene asked for public comment. None was made.

5. SET DATE AND TOPICS FOR FOLLOW-UP MEETING

Meeting will be determined at a later date.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Alyce motioned to adjourn. Ann seconded the motion.

UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE: MOTION CARRIED

Meeting adjourned at 11:54 am.