

Texas Family Voice Network

September 14, 2017

Meeting Notes

Present

Barbara Granger, Via Hope and TxSOC
Julie Bourne, Family Advocate
Eileene Chappelle, Houston-Harris County
Valencia Gensollen, Chair, Family Connections
Kamala Joy, Program Manager, Via Hope
Molly Lopez, TIEMH/TxSOC
Lillian Stengart, HHSC/TxSOC

Stormy Holifield, Dallas County
Stephany Bryan, Hogg Foundation
Donna Fagan, Via Hope CFP program; Family Advocate
Verlyn Johnson, CFP McLennan County HOT
Tracy Levins, TIEMH/TxSOC and AART-TX
Veronica Martinez, Better Beehive
Shanna Wheeler, Family Partner, Bexar CARES

Welcome and Introductions

Stormy Holifield

At 10:10 am, Stormy Holifield called the meeting to order, welcoming everyone to the meeting and asking everyone to introduce themselves and share how each person was affected by Hurricane Harvey.

Minutes

Stormy Holifield

Stormy presented the minutes for comments and approval. The group asked that Sherri Hammack's name be removed as she did not participate in the meeting and that Verlyn Johnson's and Deborah Antich's names be added. Lilly indicated that Trina's title should be reflected as Deputy Associate Commissioner. Eileen asked to delete "recently" when describing her presentation as it was actually a few years ago.

Action: Stephany asked if the minutes could be sent out prior to the meeting. Barbara agreed this would be helpful and will plan on sending the minutes out with the meeting reminders.

After discussion of HHSC's Behavioral Health Strategic Plan (<https://hhs.texas.gov/sites/default/files/050216-statewide-behavioral-health-strategic-plan.pdf>) mentioned in the minutes from the last meeting, Barbara suggested that the group could review the plan, consider how families and family partners could be part of the overall strategic plan, and make recommendations to HHSC to increase family voice. Given that family voice was not originally sought in the design of the Plan, it is particularly important to take the opportunity presented by Trina at the last meeting and provide feedback and recommendations. Lilly summarized the discussion by suggesting that the group had identified the need for family members to be participants in the Statewide Behavioral Health Coordinating Council. Barbara asked if one of the recommendations could be that Texas Family Voice Network would become a partnering agency or if the Statewide Behavioral Health Coordinating Council could require family input.

Action: Barbara asked for volunteers to form a subcommittee whose members will review the strategic plan from a family perspective and provide feedback and recommendations to HHSC. Volunteers included Donna, Valencia, Veronica, Eileen and Julie. To great applause, Valencia volunteered to chair the subcommittee. Barbara will send the link out to all members and Valencia will schedule a meeting. The group will summarize

the overall strategic plan, identify potential recommendations, and provide a report out and presentation at the next meeting of the TxFVN. Other TxFVN members will be able to provide additional recommendations at that point.

Texas System of Care Update

Lilly Stengart (*HHSC Office of Mental Health Coordination*)

HHSC was successfully awarded the system of care grant, an \$11 million grant over four years. Barbara distributed the grant goals summary. The TxSOC is completing the previous grant and will complete all activities by September 29. The new grant will begin September 30. It has 8 different goals, as described in the handout distributed. The new grant will partner with Lifepath in Collin County and Burke Center in Lufkin in east Texas and help them prepare to be new Texas System of Care sites. TIEMH will partner with these sites to provide training and technical assistance related to the grant goals and system of care implementation. The population of focus will be children and young adults, ages 3-20 years. Lilly walked the group through the handout titled *Sustaining a Texas System of Care: Grant Goal Summary* (see attached). Specific to the TxFVN, the group was requested to participate in training the SOC governance boards at the new TxSOC sites. The training will be for family members to learn about how to effectively participate on the governance boards, and for other governance board members to learn about how to integrate family members into board activities.

Valencia would like to see mention of families and the Texas Family Voice Network in the beginning of the goals in the document, rather than at the end. Lilly noted that this document, originally used for a different purpose, will actually contain additional references to families throughout. She will update the document to reflect more state contributions.

Stormy asked if the family voice for Collin County actually has to live in Collin County. Lilly replied that would be the decision of Collin County.

Last week was the orientation meeting with Lifepath in Collin County; next week is the orientation meeting with east Texas.

Julie asked for examples of state-level leaders mentioned in Goal 7. Lilly replied that those recommendations would be shared with HHSC leadership in the Office of Mental Health Coordination and the HHSC's Statewide Behavioral Health Coordinating Council.

Eileen asked if those family leaders in the new system of care sites would be integrated into TxFVN. Barbara indicated that is certainly the idea.

Stephany voiced a concern about the high expectations identified in Goal 2, *"Develop a system that will allow children and youth referred by any child-serving agency to be served with high-fidelity Wraparound when clinical eligibility is met"* and how it will be attained and measured. She asked whether the trauma screenings have been identified. Lilly indicated that the trauma screenings will be comprised of the suicide screening and trauma module that are part of the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) assessment 2.0 used by the Department of Family and Protective Services. The suicide screening and trauma module are not part of the CANS 1.0 currently utilized by the local mental health authorities; the grant will provide an opportunity to introduce these two sections in the trauma screening form to inform clinical services.

Discussion continued related to this goal, particularly related to how to ensure that high fidelity Wraparound would be provided. Stephany discussed the need for real deliverables, including family representation from Burke and Lifepath at TxFVN meetings and including family partners participating in dyads of Wraparound trainers.

Julie asked about evaluation of high-fidelity wraparound and if that was going to be done. Lilly said, yes, an evaluation would be conducted.

Kamala indicated that there are peer support providers in both areas. Additionally, the training for the youth peer recovery specialist will likely be in beta form by that time.

Barbara noted that this, too, provides TxFVN with the opportunity to take an integral role in the development and implementation of the system of care expansion.

Children and Youth Behavioral Health Subcommittee

Valencia Gensollen

Valencia discussed the last CYBHS held on July 12. There was good family representation. Shanna shared her family story at the meeting. Carmen Bliss provided an overview of the YES waiver. There were questions about the use of YES funds for alternative therapies, how to ensure family members have knowledge of public hearings, and questions about the waitlist. Tracy Levins provided an update on the AART-TX and announced that Texas had received notice of award and would be moving to the implementation stage for the Alliance for Adolescent Recovery and Treatment in Texas. Jameson presented the overview of the Children's Mental Health Awareness Day, providing an overview of all of the ways the state and communities celebrated CMHAD. Lilly provided an update on the new TxSOC grant. A legislative update was provided by participants. Christianna Hale provided an update on the Texas Children Recovering from Trauma. David McClung updated the group on ARTIFY, a conference held in the Dallas Metroplex for youth and supportive adults that emphasized youth engagement and leadership development. Barbara provided an update on the TxFVN. Laura provided an updated on the supported employment project. Public comment was received, with Tina Lincoln asking that juvenile probation departments be encouraged to participate in the CYBHS.

Barbara asked Valencia what support she'd like to receive in her role as the TxFVN representative to CYBHS. Family Voice. Valencia was impressed with how family voice was sought and received; she loved the family story and experience at the meeting.

Julie said she was one of the remote participants and there was a lot of audio difficulties during the meeting. She suggests that minutes of the meetings be distributed to remote participants.

Conference Report Outs

TxFVN Members

Valencia described her experience presenting with Barbara at the June Parent to Parent conference on mental health stigma. She reported that they had a good turnout and that the presentation went well. Valencia was nervous initially, but afterward felt that it wasn't really that bad. She also spoke as part of family panel at the TXSOC conference, which had a big audience but also went well. They had a very diverse group of families and she felt everyone brought a lot to the discussion. She also presented in a workshop with Shequita and Kay on

Family Connections. She feels like doing all three of these presentations helped her get past the discomfort, and she is ready to conduct one of the Family Connection presentations.

Verlyn shared that she also presented on the family panel at TxSOC Conference. She noted that no matter how many times they go and share about lived experience, there are still a lot of audience members that don't know about the value of family voice. She noted that it isn't cascading down through the agencies, even if they have presented to leadership from that agency before. She said the feedback was great, but she wonders to what extent the audience members use the information. Verlyn also facilitated a workshop focused on what she does in parent collaboration groups for CPS and the feedback was excellent. Overall, she felt that the TxSOC conference was one of the better conferences that she has been to.

Veronica also spoke at the TxSOC conference. She noted it is easier to have great folks with you; they received lots of great feedback from the audience. She really liked the panel structure because the audience seems to get a lot out of it.

Stormy spoke at the CFP/CPS conference on the topic of leadership. She noted it is challenging for her because it isn't what she likes to do, but it was a learning experience. She also spoke at post-summit in Galveston on the recovery model versus the medical model. The experience gave her a little confidence to practice more and maybe do it again.

Stephany shared about the TNOYS conference. TNOYS is the coordinator for the TAY project in Houston, which is funded by the Hogg Foundation. They have made great strides towards empowering youth, but parent engagement has been a struggle. They held a pre-conference workshop where each grantee was required to bring a family member. The first day was about building trust among family and agency representatives and levelling the playing field. They also had workshops on leadership development and lots of presentations for parents. Some of the grantees didn't prepare families well for the event. They did not work to develop a relationship prior to the conference and did not inform them that they could attend the rest of the conference (after the pre-conference that was required). Barbara shared that the state workgroup around CFPs working with TAY has also noted some difficulty in provider agencies recognizing the importance of family involvement. Barbara suggested that we need to figure out how to create positive messages around family's role in the transition process. Eileen shared that one of the things that was most helpful to her family from the TAY initiative in Houston was supported/shared decision making, which gave her a tool to advocate for being a part of the team when making decisions impacting her son.

Valencia suggested that we should highlight a family member who spoke at a conference and their experiences on the website.

Journey to Family Leadership Workbook

Barbara Granger/ Veronica Martinez

Barbara and Veronica unveiled the initial Journey to Family Leadership workbook. It is about 80% completed, but still lacks a few things. This is a shared product, with input from a lot of family leaders and they want to make sure everyone is getting to share in it and reflect their experience in some way.

Task: Veronica asked for testimonials on Family Leadership to include in the workbook. These should be paragraph providing information about your journey as a leader. If you just want to say one or two sentences, they can be used in other ways in the book. Volunteers included Valencia, Stormy, Verlyn, Shanna, and Julie.

Task: Valencia and Shanna will reach out to fathers who are family leaders to try to get some testimonials.

Task: Veronica and Barbara reported needing several reviewers, who would go through the activities and give feedback on it. Reviewers don't need to focus on typos and others, more on content and activities. They need a quick turn-around – within a couple of weeks. Volunteers were Julie, Shanna, Donna, Stormy. Valencia will have their core leadership team review it as well.

Task: The section on communication tips is still needed, focused on what would make really good communication when working with different systems and advocating for family voice. Some suggestions were “need to say things over and over,” “find a family champion within the agencies,” “presenting yourself well,” “active listening.” Julie and Eileen have some existing materials that they will share and Donna offered to edit it to fit the workbook.

Social Media Updates

Jameson Cardenas TIEMH

Jameson discussed the process towards the development of a new TxFVN website and unveiled it, reviewing the various components. It can be located in draft version at txfvn.com.wordpress.com. The eventual website will be txfvn.com. There was some discussion about the “com” perhaps suggesting a for-profit organization and “org” may be good to purchase as well. Other suggestions were including a leadership page, perhaps post webinars, perhaps presentations. Some potential resources were suggested for the resources page, including a link to Navigate Life, perhaps a space with major partners and links to them. It was also suggested that there should be some place for agency staff to find out more, perhaps a button for “how to partner with families” or suggesting things that TxFVN could do (e.g., speakers, training, etc.). Adding a calendar of events was also recommended.

Veronica stated that developing the website will help strengthen who we are and will lead to creating a stronger structure for the organization. By-laws will also help. **Task:** Veronica, Stormy, and Julie are the communications workgroup and Veronica will lead the effort to assist with website content. Send brief bios to Jameson within the next 2 weeks. The website launch date is 9/30/17.

Due to some difficulties in the past around agreement on content for the group's Facebook, the Social Media Policy was reviewed. Jameson reached out to a consultant and shared her feedback on the current policy. Her primary feedback was to strengthen the guidelines and further define some of the key concepts. **Task:** It was recommended that the communications committee work on hammering out the policy. Barbara will reach out to others not present to see if they might want to participate on this task as well.

TxFVN Identity Statement

Network Members

Barbara and Stormy led the group in exercises to begin creating an identity statement.

Community State Updates

Network Members

Barbara shared that FREDLA had reached out to her because some of the family-run organizations outside of Texas were interested in partnering with TxFVN around supporting families impacted by Hurricane Harvey. The group discussed a variety of potential responses.

Next Meeting

The group discussed trying to establish the full year of meeting dates ahead of time so that it could be calendared. The next meeting date was identified as November 30, 2017, with Stormy working to identify three more dates to be reviewed at the next meeting. The group wanted to keep Thursdays, but avoid the first Thursday of the month.