

Texas Family Voice Network
August 30, 2018
Meeting Notes

Present- Family Leaders

Stormy Holifield
Nidia Heston
Valencia Gensollen
Donna Fagan
Julie Bourne (via phone)
Jere Newton
Veronica Martinez
Barbara Granger
De Shaun Ealoms
Verlyn Johnson
Sherry Santa

Stakeholder Advocates

Tracy Levins
Jameson Cardenas
Chris Burton
Josette Saxton
Alissa Sughine
Molly Lopez
Kisha Ledlow

- I. Welcome and Introductions
Barbara welcomed everyone to the meeting. Each person present introduced themselves.

- II. **SOC Updates/Consultation**
 - a. Jameson Cardenas: The Texas System of Care is creating a social marketing plan to help focus effort going forward. This is for SAMSHA and TXSOC eyes only for the grant term of 2017 - 2021. We all participated in a popcorn thinking activity to brainstorm ideas. From this discussion, social marketing policies will be developed that reflect the family driven responses. This will be shared at our next meeting.
 - b. Kisha Ledlow, the new SOC Project Director, gave an overview of her past experiences and her vision of family involvement within System of Care.
 - c. Chris Burton was introduced as the new project lead for AART, Alliance for Adolescent Recovery and Treatment in Texas.

- III. **TxFVN Business**
 - a. Meeting minutes from May 17, 2018 were reviewed and accepted. A request was made for there to be several copies made and brought to meeting for those who don't have an opportunity to review prior to meeting.
 - b. Communication Subgroup Meeting:--Update was given by Valencia that the subgroup met 3 times since our last meeting. Three people attended Valencia Gensollen, Veronica Martinez, and Julie Borne, with Barbara and Stormy participating. We will work on getting the website in shape in time for the Federation of Families Conference. It was also reported that monthly Continuing Conversations are recommended between our quarterly meetings to keep momentum going. They can be used for work or special interest topics.
--Suggestions by the group were:

- Jere: Our Facebook needs to represent us as a group and not have a lot of things posted that are not relevant.
- Sherry Santa: Would like to start a new facebook page;
- Donna added that we cannot start a new Facebook page without research into how that could be done.
- Veronica M. would like a survey to be created to get a clear direction and brand to get the input from the members on what our direction should be. Barbara explained that is had been done in previous meetings and were reflected in the new bylaws.

It was the consensus of the group for the Communications workgroup to proceed with starting a new FB page for TxFVN.

c. Bylaw Review-

Barbara reviewed the bylaws as they currently stand and gave a report out of the work that had been done on Article II and II through special called meetings.

--In Article II, It was recommended that the Code of Ethics and Code of Conduct be placed in a separate document and that Conflict resolution and Conflict of Interest be included in the Code of Ethics.

Vote Agreed for there to be a stand-alone Code of Ethics. This document should be strength based and reflect the positive intent of membership.

Vote Disagreed to have conflict resolution and conflict of interest included in the Code of Ethics stand alone document.*Voted to be put back in the bylaws.

--In Article III, discussion ensued on the following language:

- Leadership Team:
Vote Agreed regarding the recommendation all the language stays as is with a renumber as appropriate.
- Policy Lead- **Vote: Agree** that a separate written process be developed **that** would empower the state policy lead to advocate on behalf of TxFVN
- Family Voice added “Unified” Family Voice:
Vote Agreed Family Voice representation, ad hoc representation and keep the same language

-- Regarding the next ByLaws Workgroup: Sherry offered to host online Zoom meeting with TxP2P account. She just needs a blurb about what the meeting will be about. Policy process and code of ethics calls can be the first topics. An invitation with instructions will be sent to membership.

IV. **Review of “Amplify your Voice: Advocating Your Leadership Skills”**

During our working lunch, Tracy Levins presented an overview of “Amplify Your Voice”. It was very well received. Everyone is looking forward to the finished product. Barbara explained that it is looking like this will be a supplement to the Leadership Curriculum since Tracy had done such a thorough job in capturing the step-by-step details of advocacy.

V. **Legislative Update**

Josette Saxton provided a broad overview of the major legislative topics that are being discussed in regards to children’s mental health.

VI. TxFVN Policy Next Steps

--Tracy and Josette led the group in brainstorming what policy priorities the membership wants to track and support. After discussion, the following priorities were:

- Family Peer Partners: Develop an endorsement statement on this that includes of family peer support be used, not only in the LMHAs, but also in Schools, across all system agencies, In Foster Kinship, Family voice Educating Agencies/ Communities. The message should include the importance of Family Voice. Testimony volunteers Donna and Verlyn.
- MH in Schools: Track/Endorse/Support
It was noted that this will be a high legislative priority.
- Improvements for RTC Project/Beds.
It was brought to the group's attention that to qualify for the project, there is a lengthy process, which delays immediate acceptance. There may be a request for additional beds, however there is concern that improvements need to be made to the current number instead of adding more capacity, "quality over quantity"

--Josette noted there were upcoming committee meeting that written testimony could be provided from members with relevant experience.

- 9/12/18 Senate HH Commission Increase Capacity in MH (HB13)
Verlyn and Donna offered to provide written testimony
- 9/13 - House Committee
- 9/14 - DFPS Budget
- 9/19 - HHSC Budget Hearing

Josette stated she would help members with any testimonies.

--Josette stressed the importance of providing letters from families who have been provided family partner service.

VII. State/Community Updates

-- **Parent Cafe**: Three members attended Parent Café facilitator training: Barbara, Valencia, and Verlyn, along with another family leader from Waco. Valencia suggested we might have a parent cafe on the agenda at an upcoming meeting .

--**CYBHS**: Valencia reported she is still trying to emphasize the importance of family voice during report outs at the meeting by asking clarifying questions that show SOC values.

VIII. Federation of Families Conference Planning

TxFVN will co-host along with a Mississippi organization. Laura Warren, Sherry Santa, Kamala Joy, Nidia Heston, Belia Alvarez, Valencia Gensollen Stormy Holifield and Barbara Granger are representing TxFVN. We will have an exhibit table. There was discussion on what we could provide as handouts. Via Hope and TxFVN will share a table, while TX P2P will have a separate table.

IX. Announcements

-- Strengthening Youth and Families Conference scholarship has been released.

--TxSOC is partnering with Juvenile Justice to provide "baker's dozen" webinar series. They are archived on the website. January is focused on Family Voice.

--TXSOC getting together a Round Table for Youth peer support round table. Next steps for Texas youth peer support.

--Next Meeting- **November 29, 2018** or we will discuss if we will have a mini meeting at the Federation of Families conference. We might be able to have a zoom meeting or a Facebook live meeting. Notification will be sent out in advance.