

Texas Family Voice Network

August 15, 2019

Meeting Notes

Present

Family Leaders

Julie Bourne
Donna Jarma
Verlyn Johnson
Jere Newton
Nicole Rotenberry
Sherry Santa
Antoinette Teague
Adrianna Valdez
Meg Wallace
Jane Walker (FREDLA Consultant)

Stormy Holifield
Tiffani Byerly
Eileene Chappelle
Patti Derr
Deshaun Ealoms
Donna Fagan
Valencia Gensollen
Barbara Granger
Heston

Stakeholder Advocates

Molly Lopez, TIEMH
Dorothy Garza, HHSC
Robin McClanahan, Individual
Courtney Seals, HHSC
Kisha Ledlow, OMHC
Tracy Levins, TIEMH
Tovah Woodson, HHSC

I. Welcome and Introductions

- Everyone went around the room to introduce themselves, where they were from and then share something interesting about where they lived.
- Jane Walker, FREDLA Consultant, shared who *Family Run Director Leadership Association* is, and why she was asked to join the TxFVN meeting today to discuss with the group sustainability efforts. Her shared the most prominent role she has had has been the journey she and her family have taken with her daughter.

II. Family Movement History

Jane shared the history of the family movement across the nation, and how it compared to with the Texas Movement. She then had Patti Derr share briefly her involvement from the beginning as the original Texas Family representative with the Federation of Families and the first Family Partner in Texas in 1985. Texas has ran a similar timeline. Timelines were for both movements.

III. TxFVN Survey Review

Jane reviewed the survey questions TxFVN members answered.

- Top Five benefits TxFVN offers *families and youth* in Texas
 - Bring collective family voice to issues to in state
 - Raise awareness among providers of importance of family voice
 - Advocate for policies and funding for children and families
 - Develop partnerships with organizations with organizations within network to share resources
 - Model the importance of family voice for regions and counties
- Top Five benefits TxFVN offers *state agencies and providers* in Texas
 - Bring collective family voice to issues to in state
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 - Model the importance of family voice for regions and counties
 - Develop partnerships with organizations with organizations within network to share resources
 - Advocate for policies and funding for children and families
- One year from now, what would TxFVN hope to accomplish?
After reviewing the answers to this question, there was continued discussion on next steps for 2020.
 - Discuss on becoming a 501c3

- We need to unify on one goal with action steps
- What we want to talk to state agencies about
- We need a clear understanding on where we are going
- More state representation at these meetings
- We need to expand Juvenile Justice family representation
- School family representation
- If you had one wish for Texas families, what would it be?
It was determined the group would like to create a “wish” statement at the September Continuing Conversation call.

IV. Afternoon Preparation

- Barbara shared she had invited Sheila Craig, Director of Substance Prevention, Courtney Seals-Yes Waiver, a TEA family member, Dr. Harvey, and other decision makers of mental health. Jane facilitated a dialogue on how we should speak when the state leaders join us.
- Jane stated that after the state leadership leaves, we would spend some time processing next steps for TxFVN and system participation, then spend about 20 minutes prioritizing that process.

V. Family Partnership: Journey to Integration

Barbara welcomed the invited guests and explained who the Texas Family Voice Network is. She stated TxFVN is about building leaders. For the benefit of the state leaders, a round of introductions was held. Jane shared a brief history of family voice movement to the guests. Jane asked Patti to share how Texas fit into that history, then Barbara shared the beginnings of the Texas Family Voice Network.

Highlights from the discussion include:

- There is a need to look at families as allies.
- Jane stated how impressed she was with the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) System of Care (SOC) has with the system partners and how family voice and involvement are embedded into it. Molly Lopez shared the purpose of the MOU was to identify how agencies can implement SOC values into their work.
- The group to a look at what integration would look like from the family perspective and then from a system perspective. The group was asked to complete wall post-its with ideas.

Family Perspective

- 1) As a family member I know where to go to give feedback to improve access or services for my loved ones
- 2) Integration to me is having family voice at every level
- 3) Having family voice and needs heard validation
- 4) Integration means allowing all to have a time to be heard and listened to
- 5) From a family perspective, family partner integration is the in division of family voice in all policy/planning design implementation and evaluation, decisions at personal, local, state and national levels
- 6) Integration means working to bring a voice to the table that benefit everyone
- 7) Family Partner is family voice at all levels, family input with planning and participate families as an expected team member.
- 8) Having a meaningful partnership at all levels and systems that effect families, children and youth.
- 9) Integration mean providing or inviting the presence of family partners into state programs services etc. so that families have access to support on a “we’ve been there” level in addition to trained professionals
- 10) Family integration mean painfully being grated into a system of bowl and afterwards others are grateful because it slide in place a lot smoother.
- 11) Have family included in all child serving systems and at the state level

- 12) Integration would mean being able to participate in service selection, delivery and development, including policy development
- 13) Integration means being included
- 14) Inviting families with lived experience to every table- ongoing conversations- contract for resources- tap into subject matter experts- those with different lived experiences in behavioral health
- 15) Integration is building a partnership together to develop services and problem solve and address family's needs in communities with state partnership.
- 16) Integration is collaborating, joining together
- 17) Having ongoing conversation between family group representatives agency
- 18) The lived experience of families and their wisdom guides decision making at all levels

State Partners Perspective

- 1) Having ongoing conversations with several people who represent groups of parents with shared needs
 - 2) As state partner integration means hearing from the family voice and implementing services
 - 3) Have ongoing in input from state agencies within the state
 - 4) Integration means taking steps to bringing everyone voices to the table
 - 5) To take all voices into consideration – respect
 - 6) State partnership to have selected family members to give their input and meet legislative demands to provide a best as we can services to meet family's needs
 - 7) Integration means having to forcefully or being made to grate the families into an area that is not normally used to make things more smoothly
 - 8) That services serving family's live clean definition of scope and that loyal agencies have a forum to get feedback from stakeholders
 - 9) From a state partner perspective family integration is bringing a family partner into some of the meetings and asking for the feedback occasionally perhaps their input too
 - 10) State partners providing for the needs of citizens whose identity or needs may or must be met through programs services that meet the needs of those who suffer or struggle from or with an identifiable condition or handicap that warrants and needs treatment to increase will being and quality of life
 - 11) Integration means for everyone
 - 12) State automatic/natural inclusion of family representative in all matters with a youth panel. Ensure a budget that promotes family learning and peer relationship building. FFCMH conference, CSMHA conference, Juvenile Justice Conference ETC
 - 13) Mutual respect, shared authority and resources, equal access to information and context around decision to be and being made, no "us" and "them"- "we", shared accountability for results good or less good
 - 14) Integration is finding a medium middle ground that can be used for all
 - 15) A person with lived experience in every state office agency, committee. Family voice should be present at every table and in every meeting.
 - 16) Building meaningful partnerships with families at all levels across all systems and ensuring their voices are heard. Collaboration
 - 17) Having a family focus group
 - 18) Integration would mean working closely with family members and relying on them to advance some of the work of improving this behavioral breathe system. It would also mean including their input in the development and improvement of the system.
- Next steps were discussed:
 - Courtney Seals will inquire about having TxFVN leadership at a staff meeting
 - Lillian and Kisha are to have a meeting Monday with the Asst. Commission Harvey on SOC sustainability. TxFVN will be a part of the conversation on how to coordinate more intentional integration into the child-serving system agencies.

- A suggestion was made for an annual lunch to be held where state leaders are invited
- Continue ongoing state leadership representation at TxFVN meetings.

VI. Next Steps for TxFVN in moving forward.

- Operationalize family voice by sending state leaders the meeting notes.
- Send thank you to people that join the meeting.
- Email to Courtney about follow up on mechanism for receiving opportunities for TXFVN to participate.
- Follow up thank you notes should include the things that were discussed.
- How can TXFVN be a resource? Try to get a presentation, seat at the table, a one pager that is quick with implementation.
- Explore better ways to recruit families. Provide ongoing coaching on how to sit on committees.
- One pager on Operationalizing TxFVN and what we have to offer
- When families are asked to sit on groups, have an overview of the meeting provided and provide a form asking for one take away, review of the meeting, and expectations for the next meeting.
- Whole group participation on "Operationalizing TxFVN"-how TxFVN can be a resource to agencies; Make it clear to agencies about the goal, mission and purpose of the TXFVN
- 2020 work plan
- Complete "one Wish"
- Meeting support, training, coaching on how to provide meaningful family input
- 6 month time limits
- Continuing Conversations to discuss some of the key points; invite state leaders on CC calls
- Invite other system leadership outside of MH
- Come out with a bang to demonstrate potential
- Have an award ceremony for family leaders, legislators , state partners,
- Posters created by children for family during the mental awareness month
- Set this up as an annual luncheon; invite a great leader
- 501c3- decide and incorporate the name, then start the paperwork, update the by-laws, things that were not implemented in the bylaws need ot add.
- Need a process for amending the bylaws size
- Consider the benefit of a 501c3; file a certificate of formation (IRS is now streamlined under \$30.000 for electronic process) Who takes the responsibility durable by one year?
- Regional family empowerment training in North Texas- Sept. 14th, E. Texas September 28th. Flyers to be sent out to regional areas. This is designed to be a leadership training that is approachable and easy to understand for everyday families.
- Leadership curriculum is under review and being assisted by FREDLA. It should be out by the end of September.

Meeting adjourned. Next meeting will be November 21, 2019.