

Texas Family Voice Network

July 22, 2019

Meeting Notes

Present- Family Leaders

Stormy Holifield	Sharon Munroe
Barbara Granger	Tiffany Byerly-Snider
Debi Dickensheets	Donna Fagan
Joanne Daxson	Monica Reyes
Julie Bourne	Bertha Rodriguez
Verlyn Johnson	Nicole Rotenberry
Adriana Valdez	

Stakeholder Advocates

Tracy Levins
Kisha Ledlow

I. Welcome and Introductions

Verlyn Johnson welcomed everyone to the meeting. She asked for everyone to introduce themselves, tell where they were from and then share their favorite childhood movie.

II. TxFVN Business

A. The meeting minutes were read to the group due to a technical difficulty with the recording of the meeting. Donna Fagan made a motion to accept those as read and it was seconded. All approved.

B. Over the last quarter, TxFVN participated in providing family voice in the developing of the Family Guide for the RTC Project by HHSC Children's Unit. We also reviewed and provided input for the Office of Mental Health Coordination' Trauma Training that is in development.

C. TxFVN is in the process of creating a Tip Sheet for Parents who have children entering an RTC. This will be provided as a companion to the RTC Project Family Guide.

D. Continuing Conversation Calls were held in May and June. May's focus was on "How to engage families in this new virtual world". June's topic was "Prepare to Exhale" where participants experienced an hour of fun, engaging activities amidst an outside world of uncertainty.

III. "Brain Break" After business, the group played "Jeopardy" TxFVN style. The participants were divided into two groups and met in breakout rooms. Each group had to come up with a name for their group and then determine how much they would wager for Final Jeopardy. Fun was had by all.

IV. Community Updates

Stormy led the group in sharing what each of the regions or communities were doing to reach families across the state. With all that is going on due to addressing COVID-19 challenges, the consensus was that communities are just trying to "stay afloat".

V. "Brain Break" While waiting for our guest speaker to arrive, the group held a scavenger hunt. Seeing everyone scurrying away from their computer to get everything was fun to see.

VI. **2020 Policy Planning** Donna Fagan, TxFVN Policy Lead, introduced Josette Saxton, Texans Care for Children, Mental Health Policy Lead to give her impressions for the upcoming legislative session.

- There is a shortfall coming into this session, which is going to impact fewer bills being passed than ever before.
- Good news is that Behavioral Health is a protected item, prohibiting funding cuts.
- The only way a new bill is going to be passed is for it to be state priority. In an ideal world Certified Family Partners would have been funded.

- There will be more opportunities for families and individuals to participate since this session will be virtual. Travel will not be a barrier.
- There will opportunities to provide testimony especially after the Budget Appropriations are published in August. We need to be looking at the “messaging” put out through these allotments. Other programs, outside behavioral health, impacting families, funding can still be cut. This is the year to look broadly for opportunities to stress parent engagement.
- Currently, due to last session legislation, there is to be a Mental Health Coordinator within each regional ESC (Education Service Center). They are to be an employee of the Local Mental Health Authority (LMHA) to coordinate training and resources related to mental health, substance use and trauma. Each school is mandated to be a trauma-informed school, but what does that look like?
- There may not be big “wins” for families this session, however, we need to weave in elements into other bills that will need to those big wins in the future. “Small wins for bigger impact.”

VII. Announcements

- A. BHAC (Behavioral Health Advisory Council) openings- Donna read the current openings we as individuals might apply for.
- B. Special Education Opportunity- TEA reached out for groups to identify individual to serve on an advisory Committee.
- C. Next week a Liberating Structures Training will be held. TxFVN has been allotted 12 spots. If you are interested in participating, let Barbara know.

VIII. Next Steps/Closing Remarks

- Remember we are all family leaders, whether professionally or through our lived experience. A family leader is one who has the opportunity to influence others.
- August Continuing Conversation Call will be with Josette to further discuss our legislative opportunities.
- Next meeting will be October 22, 2020.