

**Texas Family Voice Network**  
**Minutes from the Meeting on February 22, 2018**

I. Welcome and Introductions

Members introduced themselves and identified one thing they would want to change in the world if given the opportunity.

II. Parent Café Overview

- a. Molly provided an overview of the Parent Café model, which is a model of intervention that aims to build family resiliency and protective factors through intimate parent-to-parent conversations (see attached slides). Molly was looking for input on whether families feel that TxSOC should invest in training infrastructure for Parent Cafes in Texas and what role family leaders would like to play.
- b. Discussion: There is a Parent Leadership Academy (8-12 week course) within San Antonio region (Region 20) based out of the ESC which could serve as a next step for interested parents, following engagement in the briefer Parent Cafe. The question of how families were engaged after the Academy, and the involvement of the ESC meant that families were quickly engaged within their schools. Dr. Vela is the contact person in San Antonio; Helen Torres is the primary contact person.
- c. Discussion: Members felt it would be important to work with communities where there is already a family infrastructure; think through the process for building leadership in families and be clearer about what role we wanted TxFVN to play in the infrastructure.

III. TEA Corrective Action Review

- a. Barbara provided an overview of the TEA Corrective Action plan and opportunities for input from families). TEA has provided stakeholders the opportunity to provide input on a draft corrective action plan related to access to Special Education. The input is closed now, but there will be further opportunities when this feedback has been incorporated into a revised plan. They will also have regional focus groups and these are listed in the link that Barbara sent out. (see attached Powerpoint for summary
- b. TEA will produce a bi-annual report on Special Education in Texas summarizing progress. There was concern expressed that these reports are generally written in a language and format that isn't accessible to families.
- c. Informing and educating family members is going to be really important.
- d. Opportunities for family engagement include participation in focus groups, the state survey, and emailed feedback.

IV. SOC Update

- a. Barbara introduce Andres Guariguata, who is the Tx System of Care Clinical Lead. He will focus on the clinical services to youth and families in our SOC sites, trying to emphasize the collaborative nature of community work.
- b. Molly provided some updates from Cory, the Training and Community Development Lead (see handout). Barbara shared that we would really like to encourage family

leaders to participate on our Texas System of Care Community Collaborative calls (those would like to).

- c. Stephany asked Molly to send her all the rural SOC communities so that she can send an invitation for their new community grant.
- d. Barbara provided an updated on the Center for the Elimination of Disproportionality and Disparities. In 2018, there has been a name change to the Office of Minority Health Statistics and Engagement. Right now, there have been no changes to staffing. But state funding will end FY19, and they are exploring other funding options. Questions can be sent to Shannon Moreno.
- e. The question was raised whether we have ever invited someone from the Governor's Office to participate in our meetings? Or perhaps someone from the LBB or a staffer from Senator Schwertner's office? Barbara will explore how to do that.

#### V. By-laws

- a. Barbara described the history of the work on the by-laws, which began through a Sustainability Workgroup. The group recommended the establishment of by-laws and created an initial draft. The members reviewed and made additional recommendations and then asked the leadership team to revise further. The leadership team brought a revision to the members and the group split into smaller groups to review and make additional edits.
- b. Article 1
  - 1. Revisit everything from Article 1 – Lisa will lead discussion to update the Vision, Mission, etc. at the next meeting.
  - 2. Make sure language is correct (change language); make sure that the population is noted within the vision, and include language around leadership.
- c. Article 2
  - 1. 2.1: Create two separate sentences for "These individuals...members who have lived experience. Additional stakeholders who may or may not have lived experience"
  - 2. 2.1 Consider and clarify what happens to membership if someone moves out of the state and is no longer a Texas resident. Perhaps add a statement about what happens if you move out of state.
  - 3. 2.2 When a meeting notice is sent out, leadership should provide notice of whether a vote will take place. The question was raised about whether a person can vote by proxy; add language from leadership section to allow vote by email.
  - 4. Add language on the different types of members and who can vote – somewhere else (to go into membership section).
  - 5. 2.3: Reword to say "Members are expected to:" and then reword the bullets to work with that and make them full sentences.
  - 6. 2.4: Suggestion for Respect – Consider different way to say this so it doesn't repeat respect twice.

7. 2.5: Elaborate around what “loyalty and economic conflict” means to make sure it is clear. For item #3 provide additional information on how to get permission to participate in legislative activity on behalf of TxFVN.

d. Article 3

1. 3.1: Clarify when there is 3 versus 5 leaders; when do we determine the 5th leader is needed. Specified that the membership decides the need for the 5<sup>th</sup> leader. Suggestion was made that the leadership team makes recommendation for additional leader on team, that members vote, and then an ad hoc committee would update by-laws to reflect the change. Add a statement reflecting that the leadership team will facilitate the quarterly meetings in order to provide the agenda to meet the goals of the TxFVN.
2. 3.4: Define the word staggered – is it two members transition on odd years and two on even?
3. 3.5.2: Policy state lead should not advocate on personal agendas – this language is confusing and needs to be cleaned up. Reference all leadership roles with “state” first in the title.
4. Who is the administrator of the website? We need to clarify in this role in the by-laws. Discussion was that the 5<sup>th</sup> Leadership position could be Communication. Currently, there is a workgroup for Communication.
5. There is no discussion in the by-laws of who becomes the lead for ad hoc workgroups – need to do a better job of communicating that in the document; clarifying that ad hoc workgroups are identified in the general meeting and members are appointed/volunteer.

e. Article 4

1. The Family Voice needs to be a Separate Article from Workgroups.
2. Family Voice (leave out representation) – we need to clarify that TxFVN has been asked to nominate a family member, but that the nominee is representing themselves and not formally representing TxFVN.
3. Stephany suggested that TxFVN should advocate for a formal representative, in addition to family representatives on CYBHS. The agreement was to put time on the next agenda for more discussion of this.

f. Article 5

1. Prohibited Acts – it is not really clear what would be an act that would be in violation; clarify what are the sanctions or consequences for a prohibited act.
2. Perhaps revise to be more strength-based – “Members shall uphold the following principles:” and then flip the acts to reflect principles. We may be able to borrow language from the CFP statement. These principles should be included on the membership application and be signed as individuals join the group.

- V. Revisions to the By-laws – additional revisions will be made by the different subgroups. The following leaders are responsible for getting their group together to create a subsequent draft of their section of the by-laws.

Article 1 - Stephany

Article 2 - Julie

Article 3 – Deshaun

Articles 4 & 5 – Christianna, Verlyn, Felicia & Stormy

**Deadline is to send drafted edits by April 15<sup>th</sup> to Barbara.**

VI. TxFVN Updates

- a. Review of Minutes: there were some minor issues with spelling of names. Julie made a motion to approve the minutes, Eileene seconded the motion, and members voted in favor.
- b. Calm Boxes sponsored by TxFVN were delivered to children served by Coastal Plains. They were distributed to children from the Rockport clinic at a Winter Fest and staff were able to distribute some more to schools and new children coming in to the clinic.
- c. Members helped develop lists of family leadership roles for use within the Family Leadership Workbook.
- d. Update on the CYBHS Meeting – TEA shared their current work to increase collaboration with mental health providers in schools. There will be an opportunity for state agencies to share the work they are doing around SOC values at subsequent meetings.
- e. TxFVN Membership Form – Barbara shared draft membership application. It will be a form on the website and Barbara will let folks know when it is available so all current members can formally apply, which will help ensure the database is up to date. It was recommended that the application clarify that membership is free. There was some discussion about who gets to vote and whether membership should be updated each year. A suggestion was made that the By-laws group working on Article 2 should consider options to determine who is eligible to vote, whether it would require attending a certain number of meetings or perhaps a quick survey or call each year to update commitment to membership and address. The suggestion was made that there could be a “core family member” which would be a voting member and “associate members” who are interested in receiving information or being on a listserv.
- f. Suggestions for the Membership Form
  1. It was noted that there should be a clear “click here” button for submission.
  2. 1<sup>st</sup> sentence should add “welcomes all family members “and stakeholders” who...”
  3. Add City/State/Zip
  4. Phone: add check box
  5. Age Ranges: (check all that apply)
  6. Additional Areas of Interest – Trauma Informed Care, Adoption, LGBTQ (take out special populations), Early childhood, Transition Age Youth, Autism

VII. Community Happenings

- a. Central Texas African American Family Support Conference will be February 27-28<sup>th</sup>; Felicia will be presenting, as will Stephany. The conference always stresses the importance of shared presentation with family members (requirement).
- b. Via Hope still has opening in CFP training (April 9-11) and training for Supervisors (April 12<sup>th</sup>)

- c. Federation of Families conference will be held in Houston this year. Nov. 1-3 is actual conference, with a day or two of pre-conference. Federation of Families will likely need support from TxFVN, and Barbara has reached out to them for further conversation.
- d. FREDLA Webinar – Barbara shared a handout on how SOC communities are partnering with family-run organizations across the country.
- e. SAMHSA Statewide Family Network grant – TxFVN doesn't qualify right now because it isn't a 501c3. There was some discussion about partnering with other organizations such as Parent to Parent or Via Hope, but neither meets the criteria for eligibility. The question was raised about whether this is something that the group would want to work towards. Some of the questions that came up when the Sustainability workgroup discussed becoming a non-profit was where the physical address would be, what would be the phone number; who would answer the phone. Members were interested in continuing to explore the possibility of becoming a 501c3. Christianna moved and Julie seconded that TxFVN reinvigorate the exploration of this with the eventual goal of possibly applying for the grant and create a workgroup to continue this process.

VIII. Next meeting - May 17<sup>th</sup>