

Texas Family Voice Network
November 29, 2018
Meeting Notes

Present- Family Leaders

Stormy Holifield
Stephanie Bryan
Barbara Granger
Nidia Heston
Eileene Chappelle
Valencia Gensollen
Julie Bourne
Verlyn Johnson
Jere Newton
Deshaun Ealoms

Stakeholder Advocates

Cory Morris
Tracy Levins
Tovah Woodson
Kisha Ledlow

I. Welcome and Introductions

Everyone introduced themselves and shared any festive traditions they practice over the holiday season.

II. TxFVN Business

A. Bylaws: Members voted to approve the Bylaws in its entirety.

B. Ethical Standards: Members reviewed the Ethical Standards and suggested changes.

Members voted to change the following areas of the Ethical Standards

1. Number three change the last sentence from “The Intentional balance should lead to common ground” to “the intentional outcome should lead to a mutual understanding”
2. Number 4 take out the word online in the last sentence.

C. Meeting notes from 8/30/18 were approved.

D. Membership:

1. Members would like the bylaws included in a membership packet. It was also suggested that we make the membership packet electronically to send to new members and add a hyperlink to the membership form.
2. Members made suggestions for edits to the membership form. The following suggestions were proposed and Approved for change.
 - a) Affiliate Member: Suggested to add in ‘no voting privileges’ and take out the word ‘family’ and instead put the word ‘anyone’ in its place.
 - b) Under ‘*Professional Stakeholder Advocate*’, it was suggested to take out the word ‘professional’.
 - c) To become a voting member, each one has to go online and fill out a membership form. – This drives everyone to the website. Go to the “Get

Involved” section and fill out a membership form. Website is:
www.txfvn.org

- d) Barbara indicated that everyone on the distribution list will get the announcement to sign an official membership designation.

E. Leadership Nominations-

- There are three positions up for nomination: State System Lead, State Policy Lead, Secretary, and Communication Liaison. Barbara explained election process as outlined in the Bylaws. There should be five on the leadership team. Community Lead will rotate off next year, along with the Policy Lead. This year’s Policy Lead election is only for the remainder of the term. Role responsibilities were reviewed.
- The election will be completed by a Qualtrics survey. This will be sent out to members via email so that the voting process can be done online. Once this process is completed (due by the end of December), votes will be counted. Nominations will be confirmed, and bios will be sent out along with their picture. Officers will take their role in February.
- If there is a tie on nominations – there will be another vote. If a nominee does not want the position, then the process starts over again. The method of nomination and vote was determined a year ago in determining the process via the bylaws. The rationale for this was due to the fact that not all members can attend meetings each and every time.
- It was explained that the State System Lead cannot self-nominate since Barbara has been in the position from the start. (Barbara will have to be written in to be re-nominated).
- The role of the Communication Liaison will be to coordinate any communication efforts. Currently Valencia, Julie, and Veronica Martinez are on the communication workgroup. Julie indicated that she would like to be nominated for communications liaison

F. Communication workgroup- The website has been updated by communications team –

- A website blog sign-up sheet was distributed so everyone would have an opportunity to share their thoughts about family leadership and TxFVN activities.
- The website was reviewed and all the changes were noted.
- Barbara drew attention to the TIP sheets on Self-Care and Stages of Leadership
- The resource tab was shown. It was noted that members can always submit resources to the page.
- There is also a google answering service for a phone number identified – this will translate the message left into an email.

G. Federation Conference-TxFVN had 8 representatives present at the conference. Several presented: Patti Derr on IDEA, Tracy and Barbara presented “From Famiphobia to Famiphilia”. David McClung also did a presentation. Those present shared highlights from the conference along with pictures taken. Nidia indicated that she was impressed with what was offered really enjoyed the youth telling their story. “Those kids were impressive” – members agreed there were some pretty amazing kids presenting their stories.

III. Legislative Update A list of bills of family interest were presented. Tracy Levins compiled the list for TX SOC that was shared. Progress was presented on CFP legislation. It looks like Rep. Coleman will sponsor the bill. Updates will be given as they happen.

IV. SOC Initiative Updates

- A. Tracy Levins gave an overview of the Texas Building Bridges Initiative, a collaborative work between TX SOC and DFPS, providing national and state technical assistance to residential treatment facilities. Their main goals are family engagement, reduction of restraints and seclusion, and removal of the level system.
- B. Kisha Ledlow, HHSC TX SOC Project Director, asked for family input for the CRCG/TSOC conference. Members discussed what they felt families would want to hear at the conference. It was reported there are several TxFVN members on the planning committee.

V. 2019 Goal Setting

TxFVN focus areas were of written on large post-its around the room. The members rotated between the areas to identify potential activities TxFVN might accomplish in the coming year. The ideas will be compiled into a survey and sent out to the group for voting. An action plan will be designed at the next meeting.

VI. State/Community Updates

- Upcoming events- CYBHS Jan.9th
 - TJJD webinar “From Shame and Blame to Changing the Game” Jere Newton will be on showcasing their Family Resource Center
 - BBI Training Conf. Jan.28-30, Verlyn is representing TxFVN at Welcome, and doing a short presentation
- Indiana has reached out to TxFVN for TA on forming a group such as ours. They heard about us at the TX SOC Conf.

VII. Next Steps/Closing Remarks

2019 meeting dates

February 28th

May 23rd

August 15th

November 21st