

Texas Family Voice Network
February 28, 2019
Meeting Notes

Present- Family Leaders

Stormy Holifield
Stephanie Bryan
Barbara Granger
Debi Dickensheets
Joanne Daxson
Eileene Chappelle
Valencia Gensollen
Julie Bourne
Verlyn Johnson
Jere Newton
Deshaun Ealoms

Stakeholder Advocates

Molly Lopez
Tovah Woodson
Kisha Ledlow

I. Welcome and Introductions

Everyone introduced themselves while playing a fun icebreaker. A special welcome was given to Joanne Daxson and Debi Dickensheets, who bring lived experience through a recovery lens.

II. TxFVN Business

- A. Barbara reminded everyone in order to vote during the meeting, you have to have previously registered as an 'Individual' member through the website.
- B. November 30, 2018 meeting notes were reviewed. Deshaun Ealoms made the motion to accept, with Julie Bourne seconding the motion. Motion passed.
- C. Membership-It was noted that currently TxFVN has 13 individual members, 2 affiliates and 2 stakeholder advocate memberships. Discussion ensued regarding expansion ideas:
 - Welcome emails as new member packets are being sent out.
 - Have a membership 'drive'. The group discussed who was missing at the table. More CFPs, school reps, MHMRs, school based mental health, more community family leads,
 - Leadership Team was introduced: Barbara-State System Lead, Stormy Holifield-Community Lead, Donna Fagan-Policy Lead; Verlyn Johnson-Secretary, and Julie Bourne- Communication Liaison. The leadership team will meet monthly to design and evaluate progress of TxFVN. A day retreat will be planned annually.
 - Phone Tree was suggested. Various methods were discussed. Since TxFVN has a google number, leadership will investigate if that is a possibility.

- An email was sent to everyone on the distribution list. It was suggested an individual invitation should be sent out, with personal phone calls as follow up if there is no traction from email.
- Membership suggestions included: the 22 schools in Austin who now have MH clinics with parent liaisons; CFPs from across the state, Community family leads, organizations who focus on family; school based programs; Juvenile Justice advocates; RTC family liaisons; previous TxFVN distribution list,

D. Communication-

- It was requested to avoid using the word 'target' since that can be a trigger for some. A more strength-based term might be 'focus'.
- Our new Facebook page currently only has 12 likes. We have stopped posting on the old FB page.
- Continuing Conversation calls were determined to happen during the in-between months separating our in-person meetings. Topic discussions will be placed on meeting agenda to be determined from interest during the meeting. TX Parent to Parent has offered their web access for the CC calls. Our fall CC calls focused on the completion of the ethical standards. There were no calls for December and January. We want to be strategic with the monthly topics. At the end of each in person meeting, the topics for the in-between months will be determined.

E. Policy Updates-

- Process for determining policy priorities was reviewed. Since it was included under the Policy Lead's responsibilities, a motion was not needed. It had been requested to separate the policy process from the role of the lead.
- A position paper on Family Peer Support was developed. It is located on our website for members to print to be used when speaking on the subject, along with other resources relating to family peer support.
- A School based mental health position paper should be written for members to follow.
- Resources for school based mental health and family peer support education are to be placed on the TxFVN website.
- Donna reported on the legislative progress for the CFP bill, HB2080, which is the Family Partner reimbursable Medicaid bill.
 - Donna acting on our behalf went to Rep Coleman about filing the bill for TxFVN. HB 2080 was filed last week.
 - Follow up needs to happen with Chair Coleman's office and other representatives helping them to understand the importance of CFPs and the work they provide.
 - We are still waiting for the bill to be assigned to committee.
 - In consulting with state policy leads who are backing this bill, Josette Saxton, Texans Care for Children Mental Health Policy Lead, has concerns that the bill will not be picked up by the committee. We might have to take the Medicaid language out, little to no chance for securing Medicaid services. Greg Hansch, Policy Director for NAMI Texas, said its possible to piggy back on another bill.

- As background for the bill, there are over 200 certified, of which only 145 are active. CFP's are already in the Texas administration code. CFP's are an unfunded mandate
 - Donna will work closely with those advocates and Chair Coleman's office to keep track on the progress.
 - A group of CFPs, including Barbara, Donna, Verlyn, Lisa Puente and Nidia Heston are working on a Lege Day for education and promotion of the legislative process. . More information should follow in the coming days.
- F. Congratulations to Donna Fagan for being accepted to be a Family Representative on the Behavioral Health Advisory Committee (BHAC). She can now give TxFVN updates on topics of interest.
- G. CMHAD- Barbara sent a Save the Date out for the April 27th Austin event. This will be as a kick-off to Awareness week. The national theme for Awareness week is Suicide Prevention. It was suggested the Continuing Conversation call for April be on this topic and how TxFVN will emphasize this special time.
- H. Eileene Chappelle suggested we might think of a producing a newsletter.

III. CYBHS Discussion- Barbara reported a Family Panel had been suggested for the next CYBHS meeting. Discussion ensued on how relevant and useful a panel was. Stephany Bryan explained what was needed was a activity would facilitate how families could truly be authentic partners with the various systems. Stephany and Barbara will explore how to best accomplish this.

IV. SOC Initiative Updates

A. SOC/CRCG Conference-

- Kisha Ledlow, SOC Project Director for HHSC, reported the date has been finalized as July 17-19, 2019. It will be held at the Hilton Airport Hotel in Austin. Wednesday will be a half day; Thursday will be all day; and Friday will be half day. .
- A Family Meet and Greet is being planned prior to conference starting. It will be held in the hospitality room, which can also be accessed during the conference time for networking and such.
- There is a statewide planning workgroup. There are several family members on it, including Patti Derr, Claudette Fette, Julie Bourne, Eileene Chappell and Barbara Granger.
- There will be family/youth scholarships available. The question was asked as to how many families are expected. It is unlimited. At the previous conference, there were probably 20-25. It is hopeful there will be that many and more. We want to see more families come to the conference. A preference will be given to persons with lived experience.
- The Call for Presenters has gone out. Family Leaders are encouraged to submit a workshop proposal.
- A major goal will be is to educate and drive home the importance of families on every level for impact and improving lives, having the different values of families driving the conference.

- B. Youth Peer Support- The SOC deliverable is to hire youth peer specialist for year 3. David McClung is doing technical support, webinars, and in person organization readiness assessments. They are looking at other states for examples of youth peer supports and trainings. The group is interested in being updated on this. There was Youth Peer Support Roundtable held last fall to explore Texas readiness.
- C. Mental Health Technical Transfer Center (MHTTC)- Molly Lopez, Co-Director of TIEMH, presented an overview of this project. TIEMH (Texas Institute for Excellence in Mental Health) was awarded a 5 year SAMHA (Substance Abuse Mental Health Administration) grant to provide technical assistance to 5 states(Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, New Mexico and Texas) on how to disseminate new information around substance abuse and mental health best practices to everyone.

V. **TxFVN 2019 Strategic Planning**- Barbara walked us through the priorities identified through the survey sent out to TxFVN distribution list. The survey was broken down into our TxFVN focus areas with ideas which were generated at our last in person meeting. Each priority was discussed and initial plans were developed for implementation.

The survey results were:

Legislative Education/Advocacy

- 1) Advocate for CFPs throughout all systems- Family Peer Support is already recognized within the mental health system. There needs to be discussions with the other child-serving systems on how to use lived experience for parent engagement. DFPS has the Parent Collaboration Groups with address this regionally. (Deshaun Ealoms oversees this for the state. Verlyn Johnson is the chair for the statewide group currently.) It was suggested to explore early childhood opportunities.
- 2) Take an active role in school related Mental Health-ideas were to create a position paper on this for legislative session. It was noted the need to connect with school base mental health programs (Heart of Texas, Bluebonnet, Travis County)
- 3) Provide Legislative advocacy workshops for Fams (Lege Day) This is already being planned.

Collective Voice

- 1) Continue to work on sustainability plan, including infrastructure (workgroup).(We need to pick up where we left off.) Continue exploring 501c3 status. Barbara explained we are closer. We have the Bylaws complete and there doesn't have to be an Executive Director. Funding does need to be explored though.
- 2) Create TxFVN messaging for members to use. (The group had an activity last year, but more work needs to be done so all members feel comfortable with the messaging.)
- 3) Evaluate TxFVN progress, including a meeting feedback form (This will start today. One was created from a CYBHS template.) This will start tracking for search purposes and put it in a qualitative form.

Stigma Reduction

- 1) Work on positive/strength based language regarding families-It was suggested that a Tip Sheet be created. Stephany Bryan will head up a workgroup. Julie Bourne, Jeri Newton, Elliot Holifield (Stormy's son) volunteered to work on this.
- 2) Create a Video/YouTube/Facebook Live on *Uniqueness of Families*- Stormy has a video of Elliot that can be used. Julie has one too to start with. These could be put on our website.

- 3) Education opportunities for families-Tied for third (Barbara explained SOC Carry-over Funds had requested regional trainings be held to support family leadership development. The trainers would come from TxFVN. A workgroup will be created to design the content of the training.)
- 4) Promote Youth Voice-(tied for third) Barbara will get with David McClung, SOC Youth Engagement Specialist, to see what collaborative efforts could look like with ACCEPT, the statewide youth organization.

Leadership

- 1) Develop mentoring program- Stephanie stated this could start with relationships developed during the Conference and the regional trainings.
- 2) Fill Executive Leadership Team- This is completed. Executive leadership was announced earlier in the meeting. Each member should be asked by a member of the leadership team "What I Need from You is...."
- 3) Complete and distribute "Journey to Leadership" (Hope is to be distributed by the conference and the regional trainings. Joann Daxson, Debi Dickensheets, Stormy and Barbara will set up a time to meet with Molly on the progress of the document.)

VI. State/Community Updates

- There is a new Family Partner at Waco Center for Youth, Antoinette Teague.
- Indiana has reached out to Barbara to explore replicating a TxFVN structure for their state.
- San Marcos is working on creating a System of Care for their community. There are family members on the collaborative.

VII. Next Steps/Closing Remarks

- Continuing Conversation topics- Legislative Updates for March; CMHAW activities for April
- Next meeting May 23, 2019.