

HARRIS COUNTY SYSTEMS OF HOPE  
 Governing Board Meeting  
 Wednesday, March 18, 2009  
 2525 Murworth  
 Houston, TX 77054

Attendees:

Board Members and Alternates Present:		
Taren Bates	Robin Harrison	Diana Quintana
Brian Baxendale	Harvey Hetzel	Raquel Runge, PhD
Julie Bourne	Rebecca Johansson	Steve Schnee, PhD
Bonnie Cord	William Kirkpatrick	Barbara Sewell
Eileen Chappelle	Sherea McKenzie	Stephen Williams
Rebecca Decamara	Alma Montejano	
George Ford	Curtis Mooney, PhD	
Carolyn Hamilton	Beverly Pettway	

Systems of Hope Staff Present:		
Janis Bane	Efrat Karny	Charlotte Wilkins
Larry D. Brown Jr.	Jackie Mendoza	
Nichole Christoph	Lauren Moore	
Tammy Foster	Stephanie Pecora	
Magno Guillen	John Puder	

Other Attendees:		
Katie Bispeck	John Donovan	Leslie Raneri
Pamela Bonsu	Chloe Franklin	Clemelia Richardson
Peggy Boyce	Biebele Iyagba	Elisia Velasquez
Rebecca DeCamara	Joel Levine	

I. Welcome and Introductions

Dr. Mooney called the meeting to order at 5:25 pm. Members of the Board and guests introduced themselves around the room.

II. Approval of Minutes

Dr. Mooney asked the group to review the minutes of the January 2009 meeting and note corrections. A motion was made and passed to accept the minutes as presented.

III. Juvenile Justice Coordinator Report

Ms. Pecora reported that several referrals have been to the program through the Mental Health Court. Ms. DeCamara has been instrumental in laying the ground work for this. Ms. DeCamara gave a brief overview of how the mental health court came to be and the process clients go through. A team comprised of; Judges, attorneys, district attorneys, mental health court psychiatrist, case managers and representatives from community based programs use a problem solving and therapeutic model to address underlying

issues. Ms. DeCamara noted that Systems of Hope staff is very committed to this project which is vital to the success. Twelve referrals have been made since January 2009.

#### IV. California Mental Health Court Site Visit Report

Mr. Brown reported that staff from the mental health court and Systems of Hope recently traveled to California to observe two established mental health courts. The goal of the visit was to observe and report back helpful information to build from. Ms. DeCamara stated that Harris County is well on the way to meeting the level that the Santa Clara and Los Angeles courts are at.

#### V. Program Services Update/Systems Change Work Group Team Report

Ms. Mendoza presented monthly statistical reports for January and February 2009. The program is currently working with 107 youth from 91 families and has four referrals pending team assignment. The pending cases are temporarily assigned to Ms. Pecora and Ms. Karny. Five new staff have been hired and begun training. The mental health court team has been very busy working on five cases and attending court dockets. It was reported that the Sunnyside project is moving along and anticipates active cases soon. A report on their progress will be presented at the next meeting.

The Systems Change work group has been very busy over the past two months. Family participation has been invaluable and the program is thankful for their insight and energy. The group has been looking at prevention model and partner agencies for ideas of where our community should focus. A report will be presented at the next work group meeting on how to assess the communities' needs. Two sub work groups have been formed to map out each partner agencies flow of entry.

#### VI. Evaluation Update

Dr. Runge submitted an Evaluation Team Productivity Report as of February 29, 2009. The report included a National Evaluation Outcome Study which showed 63 families enrolled in the study. Ms. Bonsu, Ms. Raneri and Ms. Bourne gave a presentation on Utilization and Quality of Services. Copies of the slides were handed out in the board packets.

#### VII. CQI Work Team Report

Ms. Johansson presented an update on the CQIT progress. The charter is still in its pilot phase and is very close to being finalized. Ms. Johansson asked for feed back from the group for CQI data. A completed plan along with data should be presented at the next meeting.

#### VII. Family and Youth Report

Mr. Escamilla reported that the youth advisory council has been very active over the past two months developing maps for the YAC to conduct meeting in geographical areas. Ms. Bates reported that she has been working with the CLCT work group comparing the California Mental Health Courts to Harris County's. She is also on the Social Marketing work group on Children's Mental Health Awareness Day. Ms. Garcia reported that she has been working with the Youth Move Houston chapter to draft more youth

participation. A flyer detailing an art contest for Children's Mental Health Awareness Day was shared with the group. Participation is not limited to SOH youth only. Ms. Garcia was appointed as the representative from Houston at a Youth Summit to be held in Portland.

Ms. Foster reported that NAMI Walks will take place May 2<sup>nd</sup> in Sam Houston Park/Allen Parkway. Teams can be developed to walk together for a good cause. The Attention Deficit Disorder Association is developing workshops for the program. For those interested, CEU's will be offered.

#### VIII. Social Marketing

Mr. Puder updated the group on various social marketing efforts which included: Mental Health Awareness Month, the recent bus trip to Austin for Capital Day and several health fairs that are approaching. Mr. Puder shared more information regarding "Youth Expressions" art contest for Children's Mental Health Awareness Day. An exhibit of all art work will be held on May 7<sup>th</sup> at the Youth Services Center. Finalists will be displayed at the downtown court house.

#### IX. Financial Report

Mr. Baxendale provided financial information for the period covering October 1, 2008 through February 28, 2009. Ms. Pettway presented the reapplication-budget and justification for year five. As previously stated, the required match increases each year. Ms. Pettway stated that in-kind match does not equal a sustainability plan. To that point, the program will look to partner with some of the Community Youth Services contracts through the schools as a way to fund some of the care team positions. Discussion was had regarding the need to identify what should be sustained. Several suggestions were made by the board in terms what is sustainable.

#### X. Project Director Report

Ms. Bane presented a report on recent program activities. The program has been busy and productive with several initiatives and collaborations. The program has recently submitted the reapplication for year five which required an extensive narrative and budget projection. New staff recently completed an extensive four-week Family Mentor Training. Ms. Bane reported that SOH will sponsor the keynote speaker, Janice Cooper, in Austin on April 21<sup>st</sup>. The presentation will be before a joint meeting of the Texas Integrated Funding Initiative, the Children's Committee of the Transformation Workgroup and the Children's Mental Health Forum. A save the date flyer was included in the board packet.

#### XIII. Announcements

NAMI Walks flyers are available for those interested.

The next Homeless Youth Network meeting will take place Monday, March 23, 2009. Please RSVP to Gerri Sanchez at 713-394-4068.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.