

Systems of Hope
Houston Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health
Monthly meeting
Face-to-Face Meeting: Youth Services Center

April 28, 2011

Present: Tammy Foster, Julie Bourne (phone), Eileene Chappelle (phone), Bonnie Cord, Randy Joiner, Ms. Pratt and Barbara Sewell

Meeting called to order at 6:45pm

I. Approval of minutes

The minutes from the March 24, 2011, meeting was motioned to be approved by Barbara and Julie seconded the motion. Minutes were approved as written.

II. Recruiting new members

Barbara stated that May is mental health month and we should all work at recruiting new members. Bonnie asked Barbara to explain more about what we should tell people when recruiting them for HFOFCMH. Bonnie stated that it would be helpful if we had more information on what we are asking new recruits to commit to. Barbara stated there are many volunteer opportunities like Parent Connector, etc. that new recruits could help with.

III. Sunnyside Support Groups

Barbara reported that the support groups have begun in Sunnyside and she is confident the support group will flourish with increased family engagement. The groups are on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of every month at 10am and the 2nd and 4th Wednesday at 7pm.

IV. System of Hope Family Governing Board Seats

This agenda item was tabled due to prospective family members were not present at the meeting.

V. Leadership Book Club

Barbara stated she is very busy with working on the website or HFOF and will draft a letter to find out who is interested in participating in a book club. This will be implemented later once the website is completed.

VI. Website

Barbara presented sample website layouts for members to review. She has found a company to do the website and will also provide free consultation for the life of the website. Barbara hopes to have the website up soon.

VII. Parent Connector

Barbara stated she found a possible grant to help fund the parent connector project and will update members when she finds out more information.

VIII. Training

Barbara reported that she and Pam Schaffer will present at the University of Houston Strengthening Families Conference. The workshop will be on family driven care.

IX. Volunteer for Telephone Tree

Barbara has been working on the telephone tree but has run across problems with the layout. She will email Tammy to format she has and Tammy will work on making it more user friendly.

X. Fundraising

Barbara stated that she has met someone who is willing to work on fundraising and will provide Julie with Donna Edwards's phone number so Julie can call her and work on some goals for fundraising.

XI. Hogg Grant Finalist

Bonnie reported that NAMI West Houston and NAMI Metropolitan have received notice from the Hogg Foundation regarding grant funds for training. Both groups have been invited to complete a proposal.

XII. Background Checks for Volunteers

Barbara reported that HFOF will have to do criminal background checks which include credit report checks on HFOF volunteers. Barbara stated that she and Eileene will be trained on how to conduct the checks and keep the information secure. Bonnie asked about the law regarding background checks and Barbara provided some information from a company she is working with. There was discussion on if the law includes family run organizations or not. Bonnie and Tammy felt it would affect how many people would be willing to volunteer if they have to have checks that include credit information.

Randy stated that he is still waiting on a response from DFPS on their understanding of criminal background check requirements.

XIII. Children's Collaborative Grant

Randy stated that one of the partners in the Children's Collaborative grant is not going to be able to participate any longer. Randy reported that SOH is going to request three additional positions (a care team and telephone intake assessment staff) with the lapse funds. Randy will keep HFOF informed of any new developments.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00pm

Next Meetings: May 26, 2011 6:30pm-8:30pm
Conference call 1-866-206-0240 Code: 964327#

Respectfully submitted,
Tammy Foster, Scribe

