

PEG
FACE-TO-FACE MEETING
Youth Services Center, 6400 Chimney Rock
January 28, 2010, 6:30-8:30 pm

MINUTES

Present: Karen Bates, Alma Bell, Julie Bourne, Eileene Chappelle, Roger Chappelle, Bonnie Cord, Tammy Foster, Rebecca Johansson, Randy Joiner, Robin Harrison, Linda Lamb, Charissa Nealy, Barbara Sewell.

PEG Rules of Operation

Julie called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm and read the PEG Rules of Operation.

IJIN

Randy Joiner explained that IJIN began as an effort in Juvenile Probation to share a data base with other agencies, thereby making pertinent information available to all without repeated intake procedures and tests at the different agencies. A bill was considered in the last session of the Texas Legislature which would have authorized this information sharing, but it wasn't voted on before the session ended, and thus died. It may be that there was some opposition to the bill from families because of privacy issues.

Randy asked PEG to tell him whether PEG is interested in the issue, so he could take inform others at a planning meeting. If PEG is interested, Randy will convey our interest and keep us informed of developments. Linda asserted that this sharing of information is important to support a system of care. Alma and Barbara had personal stories illustrating how the sharing of information could help children.

PEG agreed by consensus that it is interested and that Randy can convey that at the meeting. If PEG gets involved in the issue in the future, we would like to see the hearing testimony on the bill.

Family Participation at Administrative Meeting

Randy informed the group that there is an SOH supervisory staff meeting every second Tuesday, 9-12. He invited family members to attend, and mentioned three reasons:

1. The importance of being "family driven,"
2. Modeling working with families for the staff,
3. Transparency in administrative operations.

The group consensus was that PEG should attend and share information between PEG and staff. Barbara and Alma agreed to cover these meetings between them.

Family Participation at Conferences

PEG had previously conveyed to Randy that more family members should be sent to conferences and PEG should choose which family members attend. In response, Randy announced that there will be a Research and Policy Conference Tampa on March 8-10th, to which SOH can send 3 people, and there are no requirements that certain staff members attend. He would like to send one staff member and two family members, and asked PEG to identify who would go. Rebecca, Alma and Eileene were all interested. Eileene graciously offered the slot to the others. **It was decided by consensus that Rebecca and Alma would go, and Eileene would be an alternate.**

Taxi Vouchers and Stipends

The Fiscal Work Team has identified taxi vouchers and stipends for family members as a large expense and asked PEG to consider how those might be reduced. **By consensus, the group agreed that budget reductions should not be made by taking money used to supporting family participation. Rather, the Fiscal Work Team should look to other places to reducing SOH expenses, including things such as reduction in staff.** That being said, PEG agreed to look for ways that money could be saved on taxi vouchers and stipends without detriment to family participation.

Some ideas to be explored are:

- People with cars could give rides to those without transportation who live near them. To facilitate this, Tammy will put together a list of family members willing to take others and zip codes to facilitate matching. It was noted that there may be liability issues for the driver and that children accompanying the passenger family member may make a difference.
- Dinners for PEG and Governing Board could be eliminated and that money put towards vouchers and stipends.
- Family members should have the option of not requesting stipends when they don't need them.
- Social Marketing Work Team should explore approaching HEB and other stores for their donations to the community
- Discounts from taxi companies should be sought
- Contracts with shuttle services to pick up family members should be explored.
- Family members who use a taxi may be able to share a taxi.
- There could be more use of teleconferences to reduce the necessity of transportation for participation.

PEG Strategic Plan

Tammy had developed a draft of the PEG strategic plan based upon the results of PEG discussions. It was decided to add an item and place it first. That item would be:

- Goal: Have a PEG plan for the sustained SOH.
- Activities: Produce a document for the SOH strategic plan that spells out what families want in the sustained SOH.

The second item could be revised to be:

- Goal: Create orientation for new PEG members to enable them to participate effectively and knowledgeably.
- Activities: Develop a Family Primer for PEG and a plan to explain it to new PEG members.

Tammy will write a second draft reflecting the PEG discussion. It will be circulated to members to comment upon by email.

Announcements

- There is an ADHD conference on February 19 and 20th, 2010.
- NAMIWalks will be by May 1, 2010.
- Family Enrichment Time is Feb. 19, 2010, 5-6:30 pm at the Youth Services Center.
- Subcommittee Issue Selection Process – Task Force for Children with Special Needs

The meeting was adjourned at 8:29 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Bonnie Cord, PEG Scribe

Date: January 29, 2010