

## CARVER COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

**DATE:** January 14, 2014

**LEADER:** Sam Deweese

**TIME:** 4:00-6:00 p.m.

**RECORDER:** Lisa Gjerde

COUNCIL MEMBERS			LIAISON MEMBERS			GUESTS
Name	P	A	Name	P	A	Name
Caroline Beise	√		Alene Chelman		√	
Sam Deweese	√		Gary Norman	√		
Christine Dondlinger	√					
Lisa Gjerde	√					
Lisa Inman	√					
Sue Kunitz		√				
Ben Maas	√					
Rod Sawtell	√					
Twyla Sawtell	√					
Becky Sorenson	√					
Eddie Tipton	√					
Virginia Wright	√					

Agenda Item	Activity/Discussion	Decision/Action/Conclusion
Call to Order	Sam called the meeting to order.	Approved by consensus.
Approval of December Minutes	Ben mentioned that his last name was misspelled on the minutes. The question was brought up whether or not we should ask guests for permission to list their names on the minutes.	The correct spelling of Ben's last name was noted. A resolution was not made on this point.

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<p><b>Approval of Minutes Cont.</b></p>	<p>A motion was made to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded.</p>	<p>Approved by consensus.</p>
<p><b>Member Comments and Questions</b></p>	<p>A lengthy discussion ensued regarding whether or not the LAC should “market” itself so that more citizens, especially consumers, are aware of its existence. In the past, such efforts succeeded in increasing awareness but did not make a significant increase in participation. Now that the Consortium has an active marketing component, however, the make-up of our council has changed, and we need to be much more intentional about what our purpose is: primarily, to gather information and encourage people to get help.</p> <p>It was also brought up how Carver County in general seems to be somewhat of a “closed community” in which if you were not born in the county, you’re forever an “outsider” and issues such as mental health concerns remain “hush-hush.”</p> <p>Caroline brought up the idea of finding out what the mental health needs are by having people with experience come and speak to our council. Sam agreed that this is important; however, he felt it would be best to have more than one person come at a time. To this end, Christine suggested we hold an extra meeting to meet with consumers and hear their stories and then open it up to a brief Q&amp;A session at the end.</p> <p>A discussion also ensued about the need to identify the objectives of our LAC and plan strategies and tactical plans accordingly. It was decided, however, to focus first on the letter to the Board of Commissioners and come back to the objectives at a later date.</p>	<p>A motion was made and seconded to hold an extra meeting to hear from consumers. A tentative date was made for March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2014, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. The ideal would be to have five or six consumer advocates attend and speak for ten minutes each and then open the meeting to discussion.</p>
<p><b>Upcoming Speakers</b></p>	<p>We briefly discussed the upcoming guest speaker schedule. In February 2014, a representative from the Southwest Metro Education Cooperative will attend our meeting. We also plan on</p>	

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<b>Speakers (cont.)</b>	having speakers from the Sheriff’s Department, Consumer Survivor Network, and possibly Mr. Ed Eide. Sam asked us to think of others whom we’d like to have present at our LAC meetings in the future.	
<b>Letter to the Board of Commissioners</b>	<p>We addressed topics that we would like to include in our next letter to the Board of Commissioners, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Address information on finances referred to in previous letter</li> <li>• Thank commissioners for new members</li> <li>• Grateful that county is hiring a housing specialist this year</li> <li>• Churches are coming together to set up housing for 30 days for people in transition</li> <li>• Effectiveness of jail grant will need to be assessed</li> </ul> <p>We also discussed whether we will attend the Commissioners’ meeting and present the letter to them, highlighting the main points and opening it up to a brief Q&amp;A. Consensus seemed to be that this was a positive course of action.</p>	It was agreed that Lisa G. would write the letter to the Board. LAC members will send her emails with notes and comments regarding what to include in the letter.
<b>Miscellaneous Information:</b>	Lisa G. brought a brochure about AccountAbility Minnesota, a program that offers free tax services to low-income individuals and families. Some LAC members took the information to share with their clients/students.	The phone number is 651-262-2150. The website is: <a href="http://www.accountabilitymn.org">www.accountabilitymn.org</a> .
<b>Adjourn</b>	The move was made to adjourn the meeting.	Approved by consensus.