

OKLAHOMA MENTAL HEALTH AND AGING COALITION

Meeting September 10, 2009

Attendance: Berry Phillips, SCA, Jean Wood, ODMHSAS/IC, Mary Schneider, OSHL, Marge Jantzen, Third Age Life, Lanette Long, St. Anthony, Sue Lamon, LCSW, Mich Magness, ODMHSAS, Nichole Burland, OHCA, Karen Orsi, AAA, Terri Thornhill, ODMHSAS/OHCA.

Welcome & Introductions:

Meeting called to order at 1:38 p.m. All members introduced themselves.

Approval of Minutes:

Berry Phillips approved the minutes. Mary Schneider seconded.

Chair Report:

Karen Orsi opened meeting with discussion of different structure of Coalition. The Mental Health and Aging Coalition used to function under Bylaws. As of July 1, 2009 the Coalition is an initiative of the Transformation Grant. Areawide Aging Agency has contract with Transformation Center. AAA has hired Karen Orsi to manage Coalition. Karen said there will be efforts to establish affiliates of the Coalition throughout the state. These affiliates will be able to function independently addressing specific needs of the area, but will be under the umbrella of this statewide coalition.

Karen plans to approach all Areawide Aging Agencies throughout the state to provide information about the Coalition. She is scheduled to present information at the November, 2009 meeting of Directors.

Karen Orsi shared that September 23, 2009 is Senior Day at the State Fair. OMHAC does not plan on representation at the State Fair, unless arrangements can be made with a scheduled participant such as ODMHSAS Resource Center.

The Gatekeeper Program may now operate under the Oklahoma City Social Services, under the leadership of Christy Jernigan. An application for a part time Gatekeeper program coordinator is available on line.

New Business:

Vice Chair	absent
Secretary	absent
Treasurer	absent

Under the new structure the Coalition will no longer have officers, with the exception of an appointed secretary. The process of approval of the minutes will be eliminated.

Karen explained that it has been a 3 month process to prepare to rescind the Bylaws. Karen calls for a vote by the members to approve to Rescind the Bylaws of the Oklahoma Mental Health and Aging Coalition.

Mich Magness moves to rescind the ByLaws; Marge Jantzen seconded.

OMHAC will no longer operate under By-Laws, as they have been rescinded.

The new structure of the Coalition will no longer have corporation status, thereby enhancing freedom and flexibility of efforts.

Today is World Suicide Prevention Day and Suicide Prevention Week. HeartLine phone lines have been extremely busy, especially with all the financial issues, etc.

OMHAC website has been updated by Bob Rawlings to include listing for HeartLine and the Friendship Line.

Ongoing Business:

Discussion about the upcoming Geriatric Depression Screenings.

Nationwide 20-25% of seniors experience depression.

The results of last year's depression screenings were that 33% of senior participants tested with moderate to serious depression symptoms.

The Screenings are often the first time a senior has had the opportunity to talk with someone, so as many therapists as possible are needed to also speak with seniors scoring in the normal to mild range for depressive symptoms.

Screenings are scheduled for October 1st, 6th, 13th, and 20th.

Member Reports:

The Coalition of Advocates has canceled the next meeting due to the Zarrow conference in Tulsa. As such, the date for the combined conference is not yet available. Planning for speakers and presentations for the aging track will begin when the date and location is determined.

Mich Magness and Bob Rawlings are attending and presenting at the Time for Transition Conference by the Iowa Coalition for Aging on October 19th and 20th.

SAMSA is scheduled to visit in Norman and interact with Transformation Grantees. Karen will attend.

Mich Magness discussed the OLDR grant; 2 counties have established a System of Care for seniors. Mich is hopeful this will be replicated throughout the state.

Areawide Aging Agency is moving October 1, 2009 to 4101 Perimeter Center Drive, Suite 310, Oklahoma City, OK (39th & Tulsa).

Dorothy Cassel presented a situation she is currently involved with regarding her mother-in-law, who is 102 years old, and the nursing facility in El Reno where she resides. Dorothy discussed questionable practices and the steps she had taken in an attempt to reach successful resolutions. However, Dorothy discovered there are many obstacles. She has been invited to discuss her situation at the Oklahoma State Capitol on September 23, 2009 from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. in room 432 A. This is an open meeting sponsored by Rep. Morrissette. Dorothy encouraged members to attend.

Adjournment.

