

## Group Memory

Members Present: Les Green, Sara Dahlquist, Mary Christen Czech, Joan Collins Marotte, Christine Schmid, Barb Bishop, Bill Affeldt, Tara Freed, Kris Halonen, Diane Rholoff, Megin Wilhelmi

1. Welcome and Introductions.
2. Review and approve past minutes:
  - a. Two changes were made to page four of the May 7 meeting minutes. Kris said that she was misunderstood in action items under CLC participation on STARS committees. She was going to talk to all STARS committee chairs to ask about the status of representation of people of color serving on the committees, and LaRone agreed to do that with her. The other change was about the presentation by Mike Carl that was suppose to take place at today's meeting? Did anyone follow up with him? Chris will follow up.
3. Announcements and Reports – Personal stories
  - a. Bill talked about reading something in the St. Cloud Times on Obama. The article provided a timeline – it is hard to believe how it was not that long ago in our history when slavery was here and how oppressive our world was.
  - b. Barb visited the National Marrow Donor Program in Minneapolis and said that they are very culturally competent in their materials. She noticed the pictures represent diverse cultures, the literature is translated, etc. Currently they are really advertising/marketing to African Americans to be on the donor list.
  - c. Kris H. said that she was very surprised when she heard someone talking about CLC in STARS marketing materials. She said that someone within social services mentioned that if we continually put children of color on our “mental illness” materials it will portray a sense of “they are the ‘problem kids.’” Kris thinks this is something we will need to discuss. Les and Tara said that CLC in STARS materials were talked about at the last Communications Meeting and that it will be taken to the African American Town Hall Meeting for input.
    - Chris has experienced an issue within a SOC site where the professionals didn't like the photos that were to be used on the billboards because they thought the kids were “to pretty” to have a mental illness. The parents felt that the pretty pictures helped represent that anyone can have a mental illness, even if you are the star football player or homecoming queen.
  - d. Mary talked about an African American woman who has a son that is now graduating from high school with honors and scholarship opportunities. By age 7, this boy labeled a “throw away” who would end up in jail. The

boy is now a success story that the mom will be developing a flyer for and distributing to others as how things can change for the best.

4. Old Business
  - a. Cultural Guides
    - They have had 15 interviews in the past 3 weeks.
    - Strong finalists for the Latino and African American guides
    - Final interviews will take place soon
    - They just received two applications for South East Asian community guides
5. New Business
  - a. As part of a retention strategy, the Evaluation committee is looking at sending Birthday Cards to families – but wanted to talk about it at this committee first because we know already that one of our families is Jehovah Witness and therefore does not believe in celebrating birthdays.
    - The committee said if this is to simply be a retention strategy then it would be better to just send out a “Winter Greetings” card or something that doesn’t have a religious/culture connection.
  - b. The CLC committee will be presenting to the STARS Governance Board on June 19 – Les and Joan asked what would be important to touch on. Suggestions included:
    - LaRone and Sara’s youth retreat
    - Committee accomplishments
    - What the committee is doing now/next
    - Committee “needs” from the Board
    - Update on the cultural guides
    - Ask the Board for their “network” to add to the STARS consolation
    - Explain why the CLC committee and goals are important
  - c. Town Hall Meeting
    - Les read the purpose of the African American Town Hall Meeting: To allow African American professionals to brainstorm about how the children’s mental health system could more effectively serve children of color.
    - The target audience is African American Professionals
    - Role of STARS staff would be to listen and take notes during the brainstorm sessions
    - Les is hoping that 12-18 professionals will attend, plus STARS staff.
    - Date has not yet been set: possibly end of Sept in Monticello.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 5:20 p.m.

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, July 9 2008  
4pm  
CMMHC - Monticello, MN (Staff room)