

**Stars PAC minutes**  
**12/22/2009**

**Members present:**

**Kathy, Julie, and Heather online, and Linda, Marc, and Michelle in the office**

1. Review minutes from 11/14/09 retreat

**We will approve next meeting**

2. Secretary nomination OR volunteer

**Marc will be secretary**

**Julie moves and Kathy 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**Moved and approved**

3. Follow up on the direction of Family Involvement in STARS.

Why is it so important to do the following:

1. Broadening our parent base.
2. Organizing families
3. Reaching Families
4. Listening to many parent voices and stories.

**The following took place:**

We discussed this at the November 14<sup>th</sup> retreat

When the site visitors were out – said that we need to get more families involved. STARS team is working on getting more families. Parents can do what they need to do. Michelle is not necessary in control of what will happen with everything in the program.

Julie – not hearing that we are in a direction.

Michelle – the direction is that we have a big vision – maybe MACMH or Federation of Families. We need to involve more families who are involved with systems of care.

Julie – there is no path that leads us to involving more families

Michelle – we are under a directive to involve families, so we need to do this. Some can help us.

Julie – what was tried that didn't work?

Michelle - flyer to be sent with evaluators – didn't work. Send something to families – didn't do that. Working to bring families together. Working with evaluation team.

Heather – way to use social media?

Michelle – Tara is working on a facebook page. We are limited in how we can contact the families. What should have happened is that when STARS started there were some things that were not put in place. Could be part of intake process they can get information about STARS. Evaluators will be a big part of the process.

Heather – how do we as the PAC committee do to get the process started to get families involved.

Michelle – what we can go forward with is looking at different systems of care that are successful – contact them and see what is working.

Julie – there are people in the trenches, but never connected. We also need to get families connected. If there is not something real for families to use talents and expertise or to get talents developed. Real is being able to think that what they are doing is making a difference. A meaningful way to make their voices heard.

Asking them to be part of a PAC that is swimming in circles is not a good way to get people involved. We need to build leaders.

Michelle – Chris and Michelle are looking into this.

Linda – being part of STARS was valuable – it wasn't just Linda saying things, it was from a recognized organization.

Michelle – the idea is that having a parent organization and bring in many voices is important. We need to have families involved in developing the direction.

Julie – what is making it difficult to engage the families.

Michelle – protocol is important – we can't just send a flyer. It is unclear what family involvement is.

Heather – who do we get the evaluators on board?

Michelle – how do we talk to the evaluation team – in the grant – required an evaluation team.

Getting into local practitioners may be good.

Michelle – federal money – they are telling us we need to reach the case managed families.

Linda – Michelle is saying...we need to through case management and social services. Going through practitioners may be good. Social Services may not be as good.

Julie – people who are getting support do better. Book –  
The data exists that tells us that support is important. Families need to feel welcome. We need a bigger group of people to be heard.

Michelle – the vision – we create something that brings everything together. Right now... if we have our focus split in many different directions, it won't happen. The evaluators are saying that we need to focus on the families that are in most need.

Julie – we are 5 years into the grant, and still some are not understanding that support is essential to helping people succeed.

Linda – where do we go from here?

Michelle – we need to have Chris involved and parents from the governance board and PAC. There are some things that we are being told by people who control the money, but that is not everything. We need to set up a meeting with Chris and some other people to help with where to go from here.

Heather – meeting with Chris is fine, but we want to make sure that families are aware of services and support. There must be a way to involve everyone. We all want to make a difference, but we are not doing anything at this point.

Marc – it's complicated.

Michelle – we will find families, but if we move forward just to move forward, we are telling others what to do.

Julie – we need to hammer out a mission statement and vision.

Heather – back to how to we find families.

Michelle – would like parents to talk to staff.

Linda – things need to come from us –

Julie – we need to get people in the fold if they knew what they needed to do. Email forum? How do we do this? What are we asking the families to do? How do we want the voices to be heard? Are they willing to share data. We are not sure what we are asking. Pull information from the STARS website. We don't know "our ask" yet.

Michelle – has been working on over the past month. What would be helpful to know what are thought from the discussion from what we talked about tonight. Email thoughts from this conversation.

### **End of Discussion**

#### 5. Catalyst training.

Michelle emailed Deb Saxhaug at MACMH – training in March

#### 6. Mini update on the D.C. conference.

Linda and Marc talked about the conference.

Linda – different states are further along and less far along – we are where we are for a reason.

Marc – talked about issues of LGBTQA issues – may submit a proposal.

#### 7. Next meeting, regular meeting date.

Michelle will send out a meeting wizard to find a monthly meeting time.

##### a. Topics for next meeting

- i. Direction of family involvement
- ii. Budget
- iii. Discussion of committee duties other than PAC
- iv. Recruitment parent to parent