

Parent Advisory Council Minutes
Meeting: August 13, 2009

Members present on the phone: Rebecca C., Heather O., Julie C.

Members present in person: Michelle U., staff, Sue S.

Members not in attendance: Connie J (emailed) Julie M.

Meeting began with Rebecca and Michelle on the phone. They discussed that it would be helpful to get a generic flyer for the family connections and for Michelle to write up a description of what she wants for supervision and programming for the children's groups for family connections. Then they talked about having a lunch meeting with department heads from SCSU (ST. Cloud State University) to discuss the use of students as interns or to just gain experience with children that have behavioral, emotional and mental health challenges.

Julie C. and Rebecca approved the minutes. We will wait to hear from others to accept the minutes and publish them.

RFP for the school approved money.

Julie and Heather will review the RFP for the money set aside by stars to fund school based mental health interventions.

Family connections

The group discussed the family connections nights and how to acquire space. Julie C. brought up the idea that schools are being required to involvement parents more in the school process with their children. She discussed that instead of just going to each location that we come up with a strategic plan to partner with schools so we can meet our individual and shared goals. Julie will attend the Parent Summit on Friday to learn more and share this first with Michelle and they will in turn share with the PAC some ideas to partner with the schools.

We discussed with Sue how to partner with the parent support group that she is doing. We will work to partner with them and we will extend our family connections structure to accommodate more partners.

Here is a tentative layout of how the Family Connections nights could be structured:

First ½ hour – dinner

One hour – supervised children's activities and parents will participate in a forum of their choosing (e.g. support group or professionals providing training).

Targeted areas/groups: Elk River(* this group is in the process of defining themselves – they are opening their group to all ages), St. Cloud(Madison for the younger group, Jr. High or High School for older group), Sauk Rapids, Foley (both groups), Monticello (7-12), Buffalo (P-6)

Michelle is planning on meeting with SCSU Department Chairs of various departments to discuss how to integrate undergraduate and graduate students into the structured children's activities portion of the Family Connections Nights.

Recruitment

Michelle impressed upon the PAC the need to keep their network broad and when they speak, they speak for many. Michelle also encouraged the PAC to look for diverse parent leaders to become PAC members.

Wraparound

Michelle discussed the concept of wraparound and encouraged the PAC to attend the information session on August 26th.

Nami Training Requests

Suzette Scheele of Nami forwarded Michelle a list of trainings that Nami can provide to the community. We discussed that it would be better to ask the parents at the family connections which trainings they would like instead of just scheduling them now. Heather said she would be involved in the trainings also since she is a Nami parent trainer.

Federation of Families Chapter

Michelle discussed with the PAC the benefits of becoming a Federation of Families regional Chapter. MACMH is our state chapter. The PAC will review the application kit and discuss this further at the next meeting. Michelle will send a link to the national federation of families.

Julie C. questioned if MACMH was interested in having chapters and if they could support them. Michelle said that she is in discussion with Deb Saxhaug the executive director of MACMH and she seems enthusiastic about the possibility of regional federation chapters.

Michelle also shared the conversation that STARS and the Northwest system of care team had with Glenace Edwall about regional chapters. Glenace seemed to be interested in the ideas.

Juvenile Justice.

Michelle discussed having a Juvenile Justice work group and or a parent from our juvenile justice project as a PAC member. Julie C. wanted to have Michelle investigate the confidentiality issue if the PAC was involved with the J.J. project. Juvenile Justice work group of the PAC to advise on J.J. issues with particular attention to The village program. They are planning a program for children who are at-risk for out of home

placement including incarceration. This program is designed to keep the youth at home and to be productive citizens. - Julie C. and Sue offered to work with the Village program.

Wraparound Orientation

Carl Shick will be providing an Informational session on Wraparound at STARS in Monticello, Wednesday August 26 from 6:30 to 8:00. Please contact Michelle if you plan to attend.

Michelle will be sending out packets to PAC members that include hard copies of materials discussed at this meeting.

Next meeting will be Thursday, August 20th, 2009 at 6:30 pm in Monticello. The following meeting will be Thursday, August 27th, 2009 at 6:30 pm in St. Cloud.