

Minutes of Conference Call on May 17, 2013

Executive Committee

1. Welcome and Introductions

Present: John Ryan, Gail Nickerson, Monica Wilson, Barbara Mitchell, Daphne Shaw, Walter Shwe, Susan Wilson, Andi Murphy, Tracy Thompson and Jane Adcock.

Absent: Jaye Vanderhurst, Beverly Abbott, Karen Hart, Pat Bennett

Public attending: none

2. Discuss/Establish a Process for Setting Legislative Priorities

Staff reviewed draft flowchart depicting proposed process for handling legislative identification, analysis, position taking and decision making.

Discussion included moving the "CASRA, CMHDA, and Irregulars" boxes to the analysis portion and to include Los Angeles County. Also, suggested to include clarification that the Advocacy Committee will decide whether a bill falls within the Council's Platform and also whether a bill analysis/recommendation should follow the 'controversial' or 'non-controversial' path. Lastly, it was decided that when there is a minority dissention on a Council's endorsement, that the letter will include language indicating that the Council took the position by majority vote.

Discussion also about length of time between meetings is often too long to be able to establish a position when legislation is moving through the process. The "Strike Team" process is established to handle such events. Otherwise, new processes agreed to which will facilitate Council member's understanding of pending legislation includes: sending the Bill File (brief descriptions of pending legislation) in the January, April and June meeting packets so members can be informed of current legislation and look up more detail on bills that are of particular interest. Additionally, an electronic copy of all letters on legislation will be sent to members to inform them of positions the Council has taken. In October, the disposition of the bills provided in the Bill File that year will be summarized and included in the meeting packet for all members.

3. Update on Plan for Executive Officer Evaluation

Evaluation questions have been sent to Council members, Council staff and 3rd party constituents. Responses are due back May 31st. Executive Committee will compile the input and discuss with the Executive Officer at the June 2013 meeting.

4. Discuss Ways to Reduce Stigma and Increase Acknowledgement of Consumer Voice

A concern regarding need for more acknowledgement of consumer input during meetings has been raised. Many indicated they could improve actions to solicit, comment and acknowledge input from Council members. It was agreed that a meeting environment which allows members to openly express themselves and to freely provide input without any one individual dominating the discussion nor hijacking the agenda is the goal. Also, all agreed that this issue will be discussed during the Council Member Open Discussion on Friday morning in an open conversation and with the intention to solicit solutions and changes the Council can implement to address the concern.

5. New Business

- Bureau of State Audits has contacted Exec Officer regarding whether the Council would like an opportunity to review the draft report on MHSA Audit. The answer was yes. The Bureau then asked how much lead time would the Council need to be noticed that the draft report is coming since the turnaround time for review/comment is 5 days. The response was not less than 2 weeks. It was agreed that volunteers from the Council would be sought to participate in the quick review/comment and the Exec Committee would subsequently hold a public call to determine the content of the comment letter. It is anticipated the draft report could come in June.
- MHSAOAC is requesting approximately \$1M in additional MHSA funding for 6 new positions and contracts for evaluations pursuant to their recently released Evaluation Master Plan. The Council also has a mandate to evaluate the adequacy of mental health services in the state. We do not have the resources to accomplish this fully. John Ryan, Carol Hood and Jane Adcock will be working to identify our responsibilities, develop creative ways to accomplish and develop a plan to seek necessary resources.
- Additionally, the question of what role/function the Council has now that the MHSAOAC is established continues to linger. The above activity will help to facilitate our role and importance in the mental health landscape and to articulate who we are, what we are about and what we do. Additionally, the Council has identified current activities which distinguish us from the MHSAOAC including our work in the Workforce area, our advocacy/legislative activities and our research and recommendations in specific areas such as implementation of AB 109, implementation of Health Care Reform and the transition of 3632 to school districts.

6. Public Comment

None

Meeting Adjourned