

**HOUSING AND HEALTH SERVICES COORDINATION COUNCIL
CROSS AGENCY EDUCATION & TRAINING COMMITTEE**

**Meeting Minutes
April 6th, 2010 11:00am**

HHSC - MHMR Center, Room 164
909 West 45th Street, Building II, Austin, TX 78751

CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL

Ashley Schweickart, Council Coordinator called the meeting to order at approximately 11:10am. The meeting was held in the HHSC - MHMR Center, Room 164, 909 West 45th Street, Building II, Austin, TX 78751.

Members Present:

Mark Wyatt, Member
Nick Dauster, Member
Amy Granberry, Member
Doni Van Ryswyk, Member
Kenneth Darden, Member

TDHCA Staff Present:

Elizabeth Yevich
Ashley Schweickart
Marshall Mitchell

Approval of January 5th Meeting Minutes

Ashley Schweickart asked for any changes regarding the January 5th meeting minutes. There being none, a motion was made and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Invited Testimony: Local Provider Networks

Based on the January 5th committee meeting, Council members chose to invite local housing and services entities to learn more about how these entities network and collaborate with each other as well as the relationship between these entities and state housing and services agencies.

Speakers that presented:

- Christy Fair, Manager of the Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs)
- Sherri Hammack, Manager of the Community Resource Coordination Groups (CRCGs)
- Marc Gold on behalf of Betty Ford regarding the Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs)
- Paul Emerson, State Analyst for the Texas Association of Counties (TAC)
- Tom Wilkinson, Executive Director of Brazos Valley Council of Governments
- Ken Martin, Executive Director of the Texas Homeless Network (THN)
- Jodi Park, Executive Director of the Texas Association of Centers for Independent Living (TACIL)

Report on Coordinating Committee's March 25th Conference Call

Ashley Schweickart gave a brief report on the March 25th conference call of the Coordinating Committee. The Committee reviewed the Biennial Plan Outline drafted by staff and agreed to commence biweekly conference calls for each committee to work on the various chapters of the plan.

Discussion of Assistance and Training for Local Entities Chapter of Biennial Plan

Committee members started discussion by stating the need to identify professionals who could conduct training and education for local providers and could assist in the creation of a training module. Established training programs could reach a broader audience.

Committee members also discussed the need to work within the existing local provider networks and make it easier to for these providers to utilize the various revenue streams that can meet their clients' needs. Specific suggestions include creating a uniform computer system, using standard eligibility requirements, minimizing duplication of efforts, and minimizing regulations added by state agencies on federal programs and funding streams.

Committee members then discussed creating a simple training with an accompanying reference guide that specifies the eligibility criteria and application procedures for each state agency program that can assist persons who are elderly and persons with disabilities. The reference guide materials would be in multiple formats (online & print) and would be annually updated (by the state agencies) for changes in program rules and regulations.

Committee discussed how lack of funding for administrative costs is a barrier for local providers in terms of their ability to apply for and utilize state funding sources. However, legislative regulations prohibit an increase in administrative funding.

Committee members cautioned that state agency commitment to outreach and training can be difficult given the current budget situation and recommending the creation and funding of educator/trainer staff positions would be difficult, as those positions are vulnerable to elimination during times of economic recession. However, Committee did recommend a commitment by state agencies to a certain standardized training module and continual update to the reference guide.

Committee members next discussed the importance of local providers working together and creating inter-agency relationships, as they are very aware of the needs of their communities. Committee discussed the distinction between local providers that are better at linking to consumers versus those better at linking service organizations to one another. Groups such as the ADRCs and CRCGs, whose mission it is to develop these inter-agency networks, are key resources. ADRCs, CRCGs, and AAAs were also cited as key organizations for bringing local information about needs and barriers up to the state agencies.

Finally, the Committee concluded their discussion by citing the need to prioritize the education of front line staff of each local organization – those that serve as “navigators” for the organization, who assist consumers in connecting to services (case managers, service coordinators, etc.).

Discussion of Next Steps for Committee

Committee discussed that their first conference call meeting will take place on Thursday, April 22nd, 2010 at 10:30am.

ADJOURN

Since there was no other business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:10pm on April 6th, 2010.