

CUYAHOGA COUNTY COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH BOARD
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
July 6, 2005

Chairperson Bonita Caplan called the Executive Committee meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

Present: John Bazyk, Bonita Caplan, Robert Carson, Eugenia Cash, Ann Hull, Joan Leeb, B. Saltzman, Bill Sheehan, Miekko Smith, Ericka Thoms, Jesse Waller, Mary Warr

Board Staff: William M. Denihan, Chief Executive Officer, Cassandra Richardson, Chief Financial Officer; Scott Osiecki, Director of External Affairs; Terri Oldham, Children's Project Administrator; Kathleen LoPresti, Quality Improvement Specialist

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Mr. Bazyk moved to approve the Executive Committee minutes of June 15, 2005. Seconded by Mr. Sheehan, the minutes were approved as written. The Chair was pleased to report that discussions seem serious regarding the possibility of a new state psychiatric hospital in our area. ODMH has agreed to hire a consultant to facilitate the process involved.

2. PURPOSE OF PROVIDER PRESENTATIONS

The Chair entertained an open discussion regarding the relatively new practice of scheduling provider presentations (one adult provider/one child-serving provider) for General Meetings. To date, four agencies have participated in presentations during the months of May and June 2005. The Chair noted that the original premise for initiating presentations was to educate Board members about the various agencies. Some feelings have been expressed that the process has taken on an audit-type flavor with regard to some questions generated by Board members.

Input from Governors:

- Focus on services provided; written material seems to concentrate on cultural competency which is only one aspect of care.
- Provider presentations are not a good use of time at General Meetings.
- Provider presentations are better suited to a committee venue.
- If the process continues, only one agency per meeting should be scheduled. Enjoyed reading the data reports and hearing presentations as a new member; however, the understanding was that the process was intended to share information not grill agency directors.
- Best knowledge is gained through agency visits; new Board members were asked to relate whether they found the presentations helpful.
- Site visits tend to provide more information/detail but are also more time consuming. As a new Board member, presentations were helpful in making decisions.
- Agrees that agency visits are quite valuable and suggested that attendees might consider bringing back brochures and reports for other Board members. General Meetings may not be the best venue for provider presentations.
- Enjoyed reading and comparing information; however, did not recall previous discussions about what type of questions should or should not be asked and felt that Board members should feel comfortable addressing written material distributed.
- Agreed that two agency presentations per General Meeting are too many. Understanding was that agencies invited to present should be considered as guests and that the Board of Governors were less than hospitable to the agency director of Bellefaire/JCB.
- Provider presentations help to update Governor's knowledge and provide valuable updates regarding new programs; favors one presentation over two per meeting.
- Committed to the better utilization of time. As Board members, is it important to stay informed and foster a close network or partnership with agencies.
- Felt badly about the Bellefaire/JCB's experience. The agency director was contacted with an apology on behalf of the Board of Governors. The process was initiated to share information with Board members not put agencies through an interrogation.
- A new concept for presentations was presented--ask agencies to highlight one new innovative program—one that the agency is most proud of.
- When the Board of Governors approve funding, it was suggested that a time line be determined for agencies to report back to the PPO Committee.

2. PURPOSE OF PROVIDER PRESENTATIONS, Continued

Audience Input:

- A representative from Applewood Centers, Inc., the first agency to present in May 2005, noted that the agency would have preferred if the CCCMHB had specified criteria for the agency's presentation.
- Steve Friedman, Agency Director at Mental Health Services, shared a concept used at MHS, Inc. where the agency utilizes quarterly conference calls to keep its Board members informed.
- Andy Calladine of the Center for Families and Children noted that agency boards also struggle with knowing about its programs. Agencies could provide materials and resources for Board members who enjoy reading about agencies, services, etc.

A brief discussion followed on the concept of matching Governors with agencies. Dr. Smith opposed this concept strongly noting that Board members must not advocate for a particular agency over another. Decisions must be kept impartial and this concept would cause distress for Governors.

ACTION: Governors concurred with Mr. Bazyk's proposal that the "Purpose of Provider Presentations" be considered further by the Planning, Program and Oversight Committee. The PPO agenda item shall move the issue forward by bringing proposals for maintaining relationships and information exchanges with provider agencies.

3. COMPOSITION OF PROVIDER BOARDS

The Chair brought forward for discussion the dilemma of agency Board composition for faith-based organizations. Ms. Caplan noted that many faith-based, not-for-profit agencies have conditions in their charters or mission statements that restrict or specify Board membership regulations. Additionally, Ms. Caplan noted that several of these agencies are Medicaid-only agencies. She noted that the CCCMHB has little leverage regarding diversity issues as Medicaid-only agencies continue to receive Medicaid and the resulting match regardless of their Board composition policies.

ACTION: Board members concurred with Dr. Smith's proposal that this issue be referred to the Planning, Program & Oversight Committee to get a better, comprehensive understanding of how the CCCMHB can foster cultural competency in various aspects.

Ms. Thoms suggested that the review include the question—why do we want Boards to be reflective of the communities they serve? and that diversity has an additional dimension of including participation by mental health consumers as well as people of low income. Ms. Saltzman suggested that agencies might be asked to communicate how they are addressing cultural competency issues.

In response to last week's meeting, Mr. Waller asked permission from the Chair to read several passages from The Bible and further asked that the following passage be included in the record, "If you say you love God and you hate your brother, you are a liar and the truth is not in you."

4. BOARD APPOINTMENT APPLICATION PROCESS

The Chair entertained feedback regarding the current Board appointment/application process. It was noted that if other Board members are interested in the recruitment of Board members, they were welcome to become involved. Mr. Sheehan suggested referencing the Board term appointment roster regularly to keep on top of potential Board vacancies.

Board members present agreed to retain the present Board appointment process as delineated in the Recruitment of Board Members policy.

5. OLD/NEW BUSINESS - None

6. AUDIENCE INPUT:

- Steve Friedman, MHS, Inc. – would welcome Board help with recruiting Board members.
- Greg Uhland, Bridgeway, Inc. – noted that agencies often have multiple funding sources which stress different criteria for Board membership. Criteria for Board membership for agencies is somewhat different from the CCCMHB; understanding that difference is key to understanding the relationship.
- John Nosek, CAD President - As public funding for not-for-profits is being squeezed, Board members, now more than ever, have to participate in fundraising as a top priority. It is important for an agency to recruit individuals who can network with corporations and legislators. Secondly, the Council on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) is also looking at Board composition.
- Andy Calladine, Center for Families & Children, reported that the fundraising activities of agency Boards help agencies survive financially in order to assist with cost of living increases for staff and other shortfalls.

Ms. Caplan thanked agency representatives for their valuable feedback.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Submitted by: Carol Krajewski, Executive Specialist to the Board of Governors

Approved by: Bonita W. Caplan, CCCMHB Chairperson