

## ACCR Consumer Provider Collaborative

March 9<sup>th</sup> 2009

### Minutes

**In Attendance:** Wes Sowers, Charlene Saner, Meg Park, Sarah Goldstein, Denise Weis, Kim Hall, Amy Sljva-Blystone, Jennifer Macioce, Teresa Wallace, Mary Lou Zemaitis, James Kindler.

**February minutes were approved.**

#### **Topic # 1 How the dialogue at Wesley Spectrum went.**

**Discussion:** Both Wes and James agreed that the February 27 dialogue went well. Ryan's feedback was glowing. The kids were resilient, talkative and open. The providers held back a little in the beginning and assumed a more facilitative role. The kids complained that they had no say in their Individual Education Plans (IEPs). Holding the dialogue to ninety minutes may have been a bit short.

**Decisions:** Be clear about who observers are and what their role is to distinguish them from participants before a dialogue starts.

**Actions:** Ryan Turner has written a summary following the new guidelines. Evaluations were completed and both are enroute.

#### **Topic # 2 The upcoming Milestone dialogue: March 20 10:00 to 2:30**

**Discussion:** They are pretty much ready and 25 people. The topics will be the concept of recovery and communication.

**Decisions:** No decisions necessary

**Actions:** Charlene Saner, Denise Weis and Aurelia will be observing. Meg Park and Sandra Johnson will be facilitators with Stephanie Santoro and Mary Lou. Note takers will be Barb Reith and Dennis Hughes. Observers are Aurelia Carter, Charlene Saner, Denise Hushes, Breon Powell, Mary Kay Clemmons and Sandi Phillips. Facilitators will stay teamed for the day and work with one group while changing topics from morning to afternoon. Milestone is located at 716 Wood Street in Wilkinsburg. Facilitator, note takers and observers are asked to be there at 9:45. Bus routes were researched by Denise Weis for us (*yeah Denise—thanks!!!*) 61A and 71 D each stop one block from Milestone 71C stops 2 blocks. All three leave downtown from 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

#### **Topic # 3 Turtle Creek Valley Dialogue**

**Discussion:** Amy Sljva-Blystone from TVC was present. She said they are planning for a SPA forum for consumer in April and want to hold a dialogue following that in May or June. They are considering doing a transition age group.

**Decisions:** No decisions necessary

**Actions:** No decisions necessary

#### **Topic # 4 Facilitator training on May 1st,**

**Discussion:** there should be about 15 people

**Decisions:** Have one group do the role playing section of the training.

**Actions:** Meg Park was assigned to get the room for the training. The trainers will need an LCD projector and screen. The only room available for us is the Rachel Carson room on the Lower Level. The room is reserved from 9 to 3 on May 1.

**Topic # 5 Beaver County's dialogue is set for May 21<sup>st</sup>.**

**Discussion:** There will be about 60 people there and quite a few agencies will be tapped for people, both providers and consumers (housing, psych. Rehab, case mgrs, supervisors and consumers. They have a planning committee of 10 people. They've decided on 3 groups of 20 each. The topic will be "what is recovery" in the AM and "How Does Stigma Affect Recovery" in the afternoon. They will hold two 90 minute sessions. A letter announcing the dialogue will be sent out in late March by the dialogue planners in Beaver.

**Decisions:** No decisions necessary

**Actions:** No decisions necessary

**Topic # 6 ACCR Membership Committee announcement:**

**Discussion:** ACCR's newest committee has begun its work. Meg distributed a handout of the committee's goals and tasks. They will meet for their first meeting today. When it is it will be posted to the website and announced at meetings. They will continue to recruit for the committee. Don't be surprised if you get a call! And don't wait for one if you are interested in the work of the committee! They will be recruiting with commitment to diversity of all kinds, supporting the membership of ACCR with phone calls and mentoring and planning one membership appreciation event per year.

**Decisions:** No decisions necessary

**Action:** Call Bill Boyce (412-350-4166) or Meg Park (412-350-3455) if you are interested or know someone who would be a good fit for this energetic committee.

**Topic # 7 Pairing consumer and provider in teams for facilitators**

**Discussion:** How do we want to make distinctions between consumers and providers to keep balance? Many questions were brought forth. How do we want to define "consumer" and "provider"? Many consumers have returned to work and are now employed with provider agencies and organizations in the MH field. Has the definition of "provider" changed? Do we need to have one facilitator who has the same type of job that some of the participants do? Do we define "provider" as "clinician" provider of therapeutic services? Many people could wear multiple hats: they are folks who have received MH services, have family members who do and they provide services. Should the labels we apply to people be completely a matter of choice? Do we want to write up a list of criteria defining the terms? Let's have our own dialogue! Who would facilitate it!!!

**Decisions:** No decisions necessary

**Action** We are all to think about how to best to make sure all people are equally valued and represented and bring our ideas to the next meeting.

**Next Meeting: April 14<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am to 12:30.**

*The Collaborative meets on the second Tuesday of each month at the Human Service Building, One Smithfield Street, Downtown Pittsburgh whenever possible. Please check the website for any changes.*