

**Allegheny County Coalition for Recovery
Steering Committee
Meeting Minutes**

March 26, 2004

Present: J.R. Brenner, Cathy Hewitt, Sharon Alberts, Harold Hartger, Mary Jo Dickson, Wes Sowers, Harriet Baum, Chris Weis, and Mike Gruber

The minutes to the February 27 meeting were approved.

Announcements

1. Recovery Fair is scheduled for May 19, 20, 21 from 11-2 pm in Market Square.
2. The COG is will have a bake sale from 10-4 the first Tuesday of each month to raise money for activities.
3. The re-scheduled Regional Service Area Plan meeting is May 7 in New Castle at Southwest 6.
4. NAMI is hosting a housing forum entitled "Turning the Key and Opening the Door to Safe and Affordable Housing Options" April 8 1-4 p.m. at the Allegheny Intermediate Unit Waterfront Homestead. Call NAMI for additional information.
5. Wellsprings is hosting a dance April 9.
6. An event called Day of Self Discovery is being held May 12 at the Pitt Student Union.
7. The Public Hearing for the Mental Health Annual Plan will be held Tuesday, April 13 from 4:30-6:30 p.m. at the United Way Building Simmons Room, 1 Smithfield Street.

Committee Updates

1. Public Awareness – Report by Wes Sowers
 - Recovery Fair will be held in Market Square on May 19, 20, 21 from 11-2. Jeannette Lee is the point person for the event. There will be display booths and the committee needs ideas for entertainment. If you have ideas contact Jeannette at PSAN (412-227-0402). There will be expenses involved and Mike will contact NAMI and MHA to ascertain how much money remains in the budget for this year.
 - Celebrate Recovery will be held September 18 at Station Square. This is a multi-county Recovery event. ACCR wants to link this to our own Recovery Festival on September 19. More details will be forthcoming.
 - The PA has developed a subcommittee for communication which will coordinate publicity for specific events.
 - Plans are underway for a dance at the First Night celebration on New Year's Eve.

2. Quality Improvement Committee – Report by Harold Hartger
 - QI met last week and is making final edits to the Guidelines document. Kathy and J.R. edited the document for readability and jargon.
 - There was discussion at the meeting about having CART use the Guidelines, once finalized, to conduct “Recovery” evaluations of providers based upon consumer perception.
 - QI is working with AHCI to see if it will use the Guidelines as part of Centers for Excellence Program.

3. Education – Report by Wes Sowers
 - The Committee decided to hand off to the County the actual implementation of the Pilot program. However, the group will be revisiting the issue today to decide if that is the course of action it wants to follow.
 - The Committee discussed finding a coordinator for the Speaker’s Bureau because Jan doesn’t have the time to coordinate it.

4. Nominating Committee – Report by Harold Hartger

The committee continues to talk with Sharon Alberts about becoming one of the co-chairs of the Steering Committee. She is considering this but has not decided yet. She is concerned about the time commitment. Sarah Goldstein and J.R. Brenner have expressed interest in being the other co-chair. The committee will present a slate next month.

5. Membership – presented by J.R. Brenner, Cathy Hewitt, and Harold Hartger

The committee made 3 recommendations for defining membership in ACCR and for retaining members. The SC endorsed the proposals made by the Committee and requested that it talk to PSAN to learn more about how PSAN provides bus tickets to individuals to support their participation. The Committee also was asked to develop specific details about the implementation of their suggestions at the next meeting.

Discussion

At the end of the meeting there was discussion about the fact that this was the second consecutive month the SC had not covered other agenda items beyond its committee reports. It was suggested that the minutes spell out what tasks need to be accomplished by the next meeting. The agenda should delineate what actions the SC needs to act upon. Mike will contact subcommittee chairs one week before the meeting to identify what action items they have for the SC.

The SC agreed to discuss what should be the function of the SC and what should be composition of the SC at next month’s meeting. There will also need to be discussion about the formulation of a budget for next fiscal year.

Next Meeting – Please Note Change From Normal Meeting Date

April 23, 2004 – 12:30-2:15

Life’s Work, 1323 Forbes Avenue