

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

August 27, 2004

Present: Sharon Alberts, Sarah Goldstein, Wes Sowers, Chris Weis, Dano Zack, Paul Freund, Harold Hartger, John Cassase, Thomas Lee, Harriet Baum, Judy Wood, and Mike Gruber.

Sarah Goldstein and Sharon Alberts, Co-Chairs, called the meeting to order.

The minutes to the July 30, 2004 meeting were approved.

Old Business

1. Wes Sowers updated the Steering Committee about the Walk/Run event on September 11.
 - AHCI and CCBH are sponsoring the event at the \$500.00 level.
 - Received a \$1000 grant from SAMHSA.
 - PSAN's insurance carrier wants \$750 for a rider to cover the event. Exploring having Message Carriers cover the event.
 - The number of registrants to walk and run is low. The committee meets Monday to discuss what to do.
 - Press releases have gone out
 - A suggestion was made to ask providers to organize and to bring their own consumers to the event
2. There was discussion about the importance of planning events that fit into the overall strategic direction of ACCR and achieve the goals set by the Steering Committee.

New Business

1. The remainder of the meeting was spent discussing the future direction and the goals and objectives of ACCR. ACCR's history and successes were reviewed. There was general agreement that the Recovery environment in Allegheny County had changed substantially since ACCR came into existence and that many more agencies were engaged in Recovery activities. This change necessitates ACCR re-examining its role in the Recovery movement.
2. The outcome of the discussion was to hold a focus group of the primary entities involved in Recovery in Allegheny County. The purpose of the focus group is to learn more about the Recovery activities and agendas of each of these entities and to hear about what they think ACCR should be doing. Organizations identified to participate in the focus group included the three co-chairs of the Community Support Program (CSP), the Office of Behavioral Health (OBH), the Mental Health Association (MHA), Message Carriers, the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill

(NAMI), three representatives of the Conference of Allegheny Providers (CAP), and PSAN. Suggestions for a facilitator should be sent to Mike Gruber. Harriet will write up the accomplishments of ACCR with assistance from Wes and Jan.

New Business

1. The SC approved a motion to give \$3500.00 to the Public Awareness Sub-Committee for the September Walk/Run for Recovery.
2. The Consumer-Provider Collaborative requested a \$10/person stipend up to \$160 for consumers who participate in the consumer, provider, family member dialogue being co-sponsored with NAMI. SC members who are involved in the Collaborative abstained from voting. The motion passed unanimously.
3. Wes Sowers briefly updated the SC about the Child and Family Group meeting. The group is interested in joining the ACCR in the future, but more discussion needs to occur as to how and in what form this will occur.
4. Mike Gruber reviewed the progress to date of developing an organizational structure for ACCR, noted that a number of issues remain to be addressed, and expressed concern about the potential length of time it could take to resolve these matters at the current pace. A motion was made for the Co-Chairs, Mike Gruber, and other interested SC members to develop proposals regarding the remaining organizational matters for the SC to vote on. The motion passed unanimously. Wes Sowers volunteered for this committee. Anyone interested in participating on the committee should contact Mike Gruber (350-4271).

Next Meeting:

September 24, 2004 – 12:30-2:15

Life's Work, 1323 Forbes Avenue