

SAARA of Virginia Board Meeting
Sunday April 6, 2008
11:00 AM-12:15 PM

Present: Barbara Battle, Joe Battle, Kenneth McCollum, Lynn Cramer, Mark Blackwell, Ellen Hall, Herb Dickerson, Sharon Davis, Larry Grey, Lisa Arbogast, Steve

Present (via phone): Jenette O'Keefe, Jan

President's Report

Joe Battle begins meeting. Minutes not available for review and approval for this meeting. Minutes for previous meeting and for this meeting will be approved at a later time. Announced that recovery center is now operational and that an Open House April 17, 5PM-8PM will occur.

Discussed that the board of SAARA is responsible for the management of the recovery center. Discussed the situation surrounding the termination of one of the recovery coaches. Discussed issues with memorandum of understanding.

Mark clarifies. Peter was not terminated, however, he was offered the opportunity to resign. He was placed on suspension without pay. After reviewing SAARA's employment policy and procedure, the remedy for sexual harassment is immediate termination. In the spirit of the partnership, SAARA provided for the opportunity to resign with 3 weeks of severance.

SAARA needs to sign form (CFR-42) to with Chesterfield CSB to protect patient confidentiality surrounding treatment. McShinn foundation refused to sign memorandum of understanding and instead decided to not sign the previously agreed upon memorandums and instead draft and present their own. Chesterfield will not forward referrals until both the CFR-42 and the memorandum of understanding are signed. Focus of staff right now is on outreach. Lynn asked how many clients. Mark replied that there are 4 on GIPRA about 12 total. Grant demands that we process 70 clients in the first year. In the remaining years, 500 clients. After 6 months, follow up must occur at 80% plus. Ellen asked what type of services the center has decided to focus on. Mark discussed that one-on-one is available, as well as group setting, as well as classes.

Joe followed up concerning the MOU and McShinn's decision not to sign. Chesterfield CSB will take lead on managing the current partnerships during the process of the MOU signing.

Joe stated that while the RCSP is a primary focus of SAARA is right now, that supporting the affiliates and building the membership strength of SAARA is vital.

Mark stated that center is fully operational. Word from the feds was that all of the work done to date has passed the test with the budget office. Mark discussed conference with Jean Govoni and behavior issues. Mark stated to the board that this wasn't a formal reprimand; however, he has asked her to reflect on this. Jan asked if it appeared if she would change as requested. Mark said that it was too early to tell. Issues with timeliness of work and response to discussion on timeliness. Jan asked if Mark

has documented the issues with the employee. Mark said that he has documented these issues; however, they were presented in the form of a written reprimand.

Legislative Agenda

Lynn discussed the defeat of HP-1416, which was intended to bring a funding stream via an excise tax on certain alcohol. This funding stream would support treatment. Will be resubmitting bill next session; however, revisions are in process as well as working with a marketing campaign. The only item that passed this year was the drug courts. Next year, focus will be on keeping state funding for the 10 drug courts.

Mark stated that this year, legislators attempted to remove the state funding, however, they were defeated. Lynn stated that an additional \$42 million will be put into mental health. The idea is that not much of this will make it to SA.

Lynn suggested that SAARA take a position on the diagnostic of substance abuse issues at crisis centers. Also, in a larger point, that SAARA should start to create white papers or take position on other issues.

Mark stated that the VACSB has considered going after the barrier crime issue. Discussion around table concerning the benefits of having MH behind this issue.

Follow up on JLARC study. The study does not include societal cost, only cost attributed to the commonwealth. JLARC has a high requirement for data integrity; accordingly this wasn't taken into account in the study.

VSIAS

June 16th-June 20th. SAARA is responsible for distribution of consumer scholarships. Mark informed the board that Walter will be present at the conference. Award will be named after him. Mark suggests that Joe and Tom present Walter with the recovery champions award.

Lynn moved SAARA present the Recovery Champion's Award to Walter, and second that Joe Battle and Tom Triste present the award, Lisa second, unanimously approved.

Committees

Membership functions will be introduced to the affiliate committee. Joe discussed need to break up Virginia into 4 regions, under which the affiliates operate. Jan discussed the ability of the regions to keep it more local. Lynn discussed that they have been having a regional meeting (Jenette & Lisa).

Ellen, Lynn, Jan, and Joe volunteered to be on membership/affiliate committee. Board decided that no vote was necessary.

Jan moved that we rename the affiliate committee to the membership development committee, Lynn second, unanimously approved.

Concerning the new program oversight committee, Jan suggested reviewing, Mark stated that the members and the name are already named.

Lynn motioned that we establish a standing committee called the Program Oversight Committee that will be composed of the executive committee and Jan

Closing

Next meeting will be a teleconference, scheduled on May 6th at 7:00 PM.

Ellen Hall motioned to close meeting, Lynn second, unanimous approval. Meeting closed at 12:18 PM.