

VTMHCA Board Meeting Minutes
January 9, 2009 Heather's Office 9:30 – 11:30

Present: Dianne, Scott, Caryn, Heather, Barbara, Diane, Tina, Deb, Kraye

Review and Changes to Minutes: approved

Data Base information with Kraye/Caryn:

End of February, Caryn will remind Kraye to update from the Secretary of State's list of renewed MHC licenses.

Next Meeting: March 20, 9:30 - 1:00 including lunch.

May 8, June 12 9:30 – 11:30

Decision: We agreed to begin board meetings at 9:30 to accommodate those of us who need to return for afternoon appointments on the days of meetings.

Decision: In past Caryn has purchased gifts for board members, we've decided to provide lunch for the March meeting to replace the gifts.

Treasurer's report: Barbara submitted copies of a written report.

Legislative Committee:

We reviewed Pam's list of agenda items for 2009.

We'll ask Alex to send a legislative report to Caryn, to pass on to membership in order to keep us updated on the legislative activities pertaining to mental health.

Mental Health Awareness Day: Wed. January 28, 8:30 – 10:00 at State House Cafeteria, all organizations who have a stake in mental health care delivery or advocacy. Caryn, Tina, and Heather have volunteered to staff a table at the conference.

Thursday, January 29 **Meet And Greet, 5- 7** at the Capital Plaza. There was a suggestion to talk to Warren Kitzmiller and John Hall who are both particularly interested in mental health.

Act 129 Report: Scott presented the **Insurers Report to BISCHCA** for our review. Scott is concerned about how providers don't seem to be representing our professional concerns in these meetings but the the emphasis seems to be entirely on removing the “obstacles to care” for consumers. We discussed some of the issues and history of the limitations on discussions of fees in these settings.

Conference Committee: Dianne

The next **ethics conference** is scheduled for 2010. Dianne communicated with Debbie Haskins about presenting at the conference in June. It will be on screening and assessment for substance abuse. Debbie is respected for her expertise and presentation style.

Critical Incident trainings are offered through Red Cross and the Crisis Care Network.

Couples Therapy: Bob Bucchio was recommended for this. Dianne will look into it.

NASW is interested in cosponsoring a conference. We are interested in this arrangement for a conference in the spring. The agreement is that we would not invest any funds nor receive financial benefits, but would benefit from the association and collaboration with other professional

organizations. Heather will also be discussing with Rilla (exec. Director for Vt. Social Workers) what the social workers will be offering in the next year.

In response to concern that conferences are concentrated in Burlington/Montpelier area, we are looking into holding conferences at VTC making them available to wider membership.

Planning for the **annual meeting** is underway, space is secured. We still need to decide about whether to offer the meeting in the morning or afternoon. We are also suggesting that we bring a laptop to the next annual meeting and set up a station for updating current information for members including email addresses.

There was a suggestion that “**job descriptions**” would help inform people about the expectations of each board position, this might help folks determine whether they can make the time and energy commitment. No decision was made on this.

Membership Committee:

Nominations for president elect? Heather voiced concern that we need to promote nominations before the Annual Meeting in order to avoid the awkward void that has occurred when we don't. Another suggestion was to increase the number of volunteers on the board in order to have a larger pool of volunteers for offices. Caryn will send this out to the general membership in an e-mail.

Next Meeting: March 20, 9:30 -11:30 with Lunch to follow.