

May VTMHCA BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
5/7/2010

Members Present: Heather Pierce, Diane Tetrault, Barb Nielsen, Caryn Feinberg, Scott Earsiman, Don Rhodes, Deb Sargent, Kraye Grymonnt, Evy Smith

Agenda items were arranged and minutes from previous meeting were approved. Heather asked for the changes to the meeting from January so that those can be posted on websiter. Evy will submit those changes.

TREASURER's REPORT: Barb provided an update.

Discussion brought up by Diane regarding a directory put out by the Prevent Child Abuse VT. Parent's Home Companion; she feels it is a substantive document worth putting an ad in for the organization. Circulation is about 13, 000 and 6500 to families. It provides target audience and Heather moved that we take a 1/3 page add and budget for this. A draft ad will be worked up by Kraye and Debra for sharing at the Annual meeting for membership approval. Kraye suggested we do a ½ page ad and board agreed upon this size.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT: Caryn shared that the brochures are out and the panel is firming up; Dianne Coffey agreed to be on the panel and Caryn plans to ask Tom Ehrenberg (who we have received confirmation from at the time of these minutes being written). Caryn will ask Barbara Benton St. Gelais if she is interested in moderating the panel. Some discussion ensued regarding a framework for the panel and having some questions prepared in advance. We discussed the option also of seeking out a therapist who uses social media in their practice. Debra suggested Phyllis S. who has a secure site and has done her homework on the topic. The issue of payment ensued and was further discussed. An honorarium will be provided to all presenters. Accountable Person Debra will inquire as to her availability and interest.

VTMHCA Brochures are in preparation stage for Annual Meeting and are at Minuteman Press for quote: 500 copies are being ordered at rate of \$322.00. Accountable Person is Kraye who will proofread and Caryn requested that she get a copy in advance to read over as well.

WEBSITE: ad rates were discussed as well and Diane shared her document on "Why Become a Member and shared a copy with all along with a script for phone tree. We all agreed to look it over and provide feedback to her. Accountable Person Don offered that an immediate lead point be made followed by bullet points and he offered to review the whole document and offer changes.

Heather raised the idea of having a blog function for categories and quick reference and VTMHCA would be able to manage the blogs. Numerous concerns and questions about who would be the gatekeeper on this and there were concerns about too many "fingers in

the pie” and potential for too many errors, unless we have one designated person who makes changes to the site etc. We were getting rather “water bogged” and so... Debra suggested this topic be discussed at the upcoming Retreat.

**LEGISLATIVE REPORT:** Scott indicated that the council met once since our last board meeting and is due to meet again next week. Brian Dubie was discussed as being thoughtful about mental health issues, and middle of the road and business oriented in the midst of current trends and changes in health care.

Heather shared that the Challenges for Change document met with uproar in the Legislature and essentially people are not on board and this appears to be moving forward according to Diane. Discussion ensued regarding mandates for wait lists as a means to avoid “cherry picking” and the opportunity for group options in the outpatient arena. S-88 passed and so plans for universal coverage are much improved. The rally in Montpelier on May 1<sup>st</sup> in coordination with the VT. Worker’s Center was attended by about 800+ people.

Scott shared that he is not doing the private practice business model any longer and is also going to step down from the Legislative Chair. He is re-thinking his practice and has some new plans on the horizon. Thank you, Scott for all of your tireless work.

Accountable Person Scott did agree to stay on as a “member at large” and be available to consult with next Legislative Chair.

**ANNUAL MEETING** agenda was discussed and tightened up; it will be succinct and efficient. Lobbyist, Virginia Renfrew will arrive and present at 2:30 pm; she will be followed by Scott up to 3:00 pm who will provide a legislative update and the focus will also include the “Year in Review” with topics to be addressed: Board and Chair Reports by Chairs of each committee; we will cover Future Initiatives as well from 2:30 to 3:00 pm; Diane will discuss Future Initiatives from 3:00 to 3:30 pm and an election of officers will take place via paper ballots from 3:30 to 4:00; Brainstorming and Acknowledgements will take place from 4:00 to 4:30 pm and Caryn agreed to report on some aspects of the Year in Review; Barbara suggested that an email of the agenda be sent to the membership prior to the Annual Meeting.

Accountable Person Heather agreed to prepare the paper ballots and send an email to Caryn with the agenda and Accountable Person Caryn will then forward to the Listserv

Don suggested the importance of active recruitment and Diane offered the idea of each of us committing to sit down with a member and soliciting their participation on the board. Don asked if we could get a list of names and Krave stated that he could email by county if we simply email him a request.

An issue was raised about a question from last year’s annual meeting about the best way to handle mental health complaints or lawsuits and whether retaining an attorney was necessary. Discussion ensued about the importance of starting with one’s own malpractice insurance and get advisement about next steps there.

Caryn suggested that we spend some time on the acknowledgements portion of the meeting and a small budget was discussed for this portion as a means of thanking board members.

NEXT BOARD MEETING: September 17, 2010 at Krave's new location in Waterbury from 9:00 am to 11:00 am

Respectfully Submitted  
Evy Smith