



WCHO/CSTS Bi-Annual Town Hall Meeting Minutes
September 25, 2007
4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Sally Amos, Customer Services Manager called the Town Hall Meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Providers participating in the Provider Fair:

- Corner Health
- CSTS Youth & Family Services (Foster Care Program)
- His Eye Is On The Sparrow
- NAMI
- Ozone House
- Spectrum Community Services
- STEP
- Work Skills

The floor was opened for public comments.

Public Comment:

Participant spoke to all about the clubhouse and the new provider, talked about a trip to Fountain House in New York. Stated that ICDD is willing to come help work on the clubhouse for FREE. Those who wanted to talk about club house issues were welcome to the table.

Participant on the Consumer Advisory Council encouraged individuals to bring issues to the attention of the WCHO and CSTS staff for the CAC to address. If anyone has things to bring to the staff they should contact any member of the CAC. Participant wanted to point out that there are people who don't get heard from too much like people from Camelot, they have trouble and people don't know about them and would like to encourage CMH staff to be involved with the people. Connecting in the community will be discussed at the table.

Topics listed for discussion included:

- Clubhouse & Full Circle
- Community Involvement
- Services for People with Disabilities

Report on group discussions:

Table 1 –reported that they discussed different ways in which people receive or don't receive services; models that could be used, developing initial treatment circles, requests for more prevention and interventions and the lack of them, the requirements for people to receive extra care.

Table 2 - The WCHO board is going to participate in Recipient Rights training. NAMI advocates are trying to enforce mental health parity; everyone was encouraged to help get the word out. Intentional Communities of Washtenaw thanked the WCHO and CSTS for supported their program to create housing for children with disabilities.

Table 3 - A question rose regarding electro shock therapy, did they have a right to refuse it. Office of Recipient Rights staff responded that all persons receiving services have a right to consent or decline services which includes electro convulsive therapy. Participant stated they moved to Washtenaw County 18 months ago. They gave up vocational training and recreation programs at a program in Illinois that stopped at age 21 and is hopeful the situation will be better in Ann Arbor with vocational employment. Participant will be volunteering to work with whoever is interested for more visibility with the program and make sure there is incentive for employers to list space on their rosters for someone to come in and manage their facilities.

Table 4 - Participant responded that Fresh start helped her gain independence. Fresh Start is a clubhouse that has a work-ordered day. In the evening they would like to be open until 6-8 at night for social activities. It is something to think about for the future. Participant responded that the group talked about the clubhouse, the work ordered day, the art program is supposed to be stabilizing to clients. Now it seems that the clubhouse is a work house. One of the topics was to have had a mish mash of topics. One big topic was that Fresh Start doesn't have a director. The question raised was what a director would do. A lot of good answers were being mentioned when the group had to stop talking. The past director was a buffer between clients and staff. Another participant read a quote, "Today is being thankful for mercy and understanding," and that is what the director should provide at Fresh Start. Participant added that art, music and dance makes the consumers feel alive.

Closing comments were requested. Participant reiterated that Fresh Start needs a new director, and advocated for the consumers to work with Fountain House who has 50 years experience to get one. A work group will be started.

Sally thanked everyone for participating in the Town Hall Meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.