

# NORTHERN LAKES COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH

## CONSUMER ADVOCACY COUNCIL MINUTES

DATE: March 9, 2011  
TIME: 1:30 p.m.  
PLACE: Northern Lakes Community Mental Health  
(105 Hall Street, Traverse City)

PRESENT: GP, DL, CP, JN, KS, PJ, JM, CR, and MB.

GUESTS: Members from Kandu Island.

The meeting was called to order at 1:37 p.m.

### **I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

KS welcomed those in attendance. Introductions completed. Carolyn read the vision and mission.

Changes identified to the agenda: minutes – clarity on P & A phone calls 1:40 p.m., Kandu Island Presentation, New Member Application, Follow up to Mini-Grant, Old Business – paperwork from CAC, Regional Consumer Conference and Walk A Mile Rally, New Plan with BATA for individuals with disabilities.

### **II. PUBLIC COMMENT/ADVOCACY STORIES**

None.

### **III. ACCEPT MEETING MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 9, 2011**

CR MADE THE MOTION THAT THE LAST THREE PARAGRAPHS OF SECTION IV BE SET ASIDE UNTIL THE NEXT MEETING. SUPPORTED BY JM. Will revisit at the April meeting. Kristy will follow through with Michelle Brand from P & A.

PJ MADE THE MOTION, SUPPORTED BY MB TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 9, 2011 MEETING WITHOUT THE LAST THREE PARAGRAPHS OF SECTION IV.

### **IV. KANDU ISLAND PRESENTATION**

JM introduced NZ who is the Vice President of the Council of Volunteers Mentors Board. NZ identified that Kandu Island is a Drop-In Center providing socialization, support, referrals, making resources available to participants. Participants are those with mental illness and have had counseling therapy with Northern Lakes CMH or other mental health agency. Average membership is 30 to 50 people. Transportation is provided to consumers to community meals. There are seven KI participant members on the Board. The program is operated by consumers. One vacancy currently on the Board. Hours of operation are: 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. KI is temporarily closed on Saturdays. Pantry is open 10 a.m. to 12 Noon on Thursday and Friday. When open again on Saturday it will be from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Responded to questions about eligibility requirements. Identified activities that are available. There is an internet connection available and a washer and dryer can be used. The drop-in provides a place for consumers to feel connected, makes lives meaningful and a safe place to visit. There was discussion as to requirements for reopening the kitchen. Provided information on a dance scheduled for April 1. It was noted that no one is allowed at drop-in who are drunk or on drugs and individuals are welcomed back when they are clean. Northern Lakes also has a drop-in center in Houghton Lake called New Beginnings.

### **V. NEW MEMBER APPLICATION/INTRODUCTION**

It was identified that the applicant who submitted her CAC application has withdrawn her application at this time due to health issues. Vacancies are still available for a family member and identified other openings.

### **VI. FOLLOW-UP TO MINI-GRANTS**

Distributed flyers for the mini-grants. Cindy identified that they discussed with the Department of Community Health the possibility and were approved to offer mini-grants to consumers. Total cost would be \$10,000 and each mini-grant would be no more than \$2,000. Identified examples of subjects for the grant: community membership, inclusion and wellness. A review committee will look at each of the grants

for the approval process. The grants are targeted for use for our six counties. Identified reporting process. Applications are due to Joanie Blamer by March 15. Award of the grants will be by April 1.

## **VII. CAC ASSESSMENT**

Not discussed.

## **VIII. OLD BUSINESS**

Paperwork for CAC – Council members questioned whether there is an electronic record of flyers or issues discussed at meetings. Concerns were shared about not wanting to keep a lot of paper on hand yet wanting to be able to come up with items for interested individuals as needed. Currently we maintain electronic copies of our packets. We do have a part of the NLCMH website identified for CAC. Currently on the website for the CAC are the by-laws, presentations, and CAC pamphlet. Members felt it was important to have available to them material that was discussed at meetings either electronically on the website and/or by paper copy. There are items such as the Recovery Newsletter that are currently posted on the website although not specific to the CAC. Will outline a plan and bring back for discussion next month.

Transportation Issues in TC – JN reported that BATA is requiring that individuals with disabilities who want to receive the discounted price complete an application to be signed by the physician, a photo taken, and they will be issued an ID card. Individuals will then need to show the ID card for the discounted fare. Concern about other riders may see your card and know that you have a disability. Greg identified that it is a growing trend that public supported transportation systems go to this type of system. It was noted that the cost is \$3.00 one way if you do not have the card. The cost for individuals with a disability is \$1.50 one way (must have the ID card). JN identified that BATA did not notify everyone so there will be a delay in her receiving her ID card. Greg identified that he did not receive notification although our case managers may have received. There is also a reduced rate for individuals who are over 60 years old.

Regional Consumer Conference – The conference is scheduled for April 27 from 10:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Ludington Area Center for the Arts. No cost for attendance. Agenda items are: advocacy, how a bill becomes a law, and time management. Registration deadline is April 15. Sponsor this year is West Michigan CMHS.

Walk A Mile In My Shoes – Scheduled for Wednesday, May 11 in Lansing. We have participated for a number of years. There will be representatives from each of the counties. We have an opportunity for other people to write statements and have your statement read. Greg identified that is the date of the next CAC meeting and is scheduled for Cadillac. The vehicles will be used to transport individuals to Lansing. Greg did talk with the Club Cadillac Director and are prepared to host and do a presentation to the CAC. Greg identified options would be to reschedule CAC in May or keep the same date and meet in Traverse City. We will know how many people will be signed up and could make a decision at our April meeting. Discussed meeting at Club Cadillac on May 18. Greg will check with Club Cadillac.

Update on Budget – JN asked how we are responding to Governor Snyder's proposing to cut caregiver services (home health services). Greg identified that there is lots of advocacy going on what is proposed in the budget. At this point all organized groups and individuals are advocating to try and prevent reductions in all of those areas. JN was encouraged to make contact directly with her representative or senator to express her thoughts. It is the Governor's proposal and is unclear what the house and senate does with that. There is a lot of resistance being targeted for those things already. The strongest thing to do is to talk with your legislators. Greg identified that we are having discussions with Darwin Booher and Ray Franz's aide about the possibility of hosting a meeting where we would invite all the senators and legislators who represent Northern Lakes CMH. He noted that Darwin is interested in helping facilitate. We are looking at holding in May or June. Greg identified that the CAC could be part of the agenda development and discussion. Reviewed other budget cuts. For FY 12 it is proposed that the CMH budget would be a 3% reduction for general fund budget and the question is whether the reduction will be bigger. Things are getting meaner and leaner.

Freedom to Work Amendment – not discussed.

RCF Meeting – distributed minutes of the February 17 meeting. Identified representation and purpose of the group.

**IX. CURRENT LITERATURE, ARTICLES AND MOVIES**

MB referenced a movie "Julie".

**X. NEW BUSINESS**

Not discussed.

**XI. AGENDA PLANNING**

The next meeting is scheduled for April 13, 2011 in Traverse City: Clarity on calling Michigan Protection & Advocacy, Paperwork for CAC/NLCMH Website, Transportation issues in TC, presentation by Lynn Ross about Medicare (let Deb know of any questions in advance).

**XII. PUBLIC COMMENT**

-Today is Ash Wednesday.

-Transportation – try to cover all people with the new routes, new stops and eliminating other routes.

**XIII. MEETING EVALUATION/ADJOURN**

None.

The meeting adjourned at 3:32 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Debra Lavender, Recording Secretary

dsl 3/23/2011