

**HCRS JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES
Springfield, Vermont
June 7, 2016**

Present: HCRS Staff: George Karabakakis (Facilitator), Lisa Northup, Sue Hennessey, Karon Eagles, Will Shakespeare, Opeyemi Parham, Lori Lintner, and Crystal Morey
Client/Community Representation: Chrissy Cheney, S. Haines, K. Beach, P. Morse, L. Tyler, Y. McNeil, D. Ladd, T. Wrigley, Z. Hollingsworth, L. Monette, T. Andrews, and other representation via video conferencing in Hartford and Brattleboro
Board Representation: Sally Ann Silfies and Diana Slade

Welcome: At 12:05 PM, George Karabakakis welcomed everyone to the meeting. Introductions were made including those participating via video conferencing. George introduced HCRS' newest board member, Sally Ann Silfies who will also be serving on the Children's Standing Committee. Welcome Sally Ann.

Joint Standing Committee Minutes: The March 1, 2016 Joint Standing Committee Meeting minutes were reviewed and approved as written. These minutes will be posted to the HCRS Internet Site. The Internet website is: www.hcrs.org.

CEO Update: George Karabakakis, CEO provided an update on the status of the agency. The Legislature ended its session recently. The system of designated agencies received a 2% increase in their Medicaid rate effective Sept. 1st. Call to actions, public hearings, education, advocacy, testimony by clients and providers, etc contributed to this increase. HCRS also held DS retreats that were extremely helpful for staff.

There has been a lot of positive public relation stories and community outreach efforts at HCRS recently with coverage about the Shared Living Providers (SLP's), grants that the DS services folks have worked on, HCRS staff and family participation in Green up day events throughout the region, as well as TV coverage about the Police Social Worker program in Hartford. HCRS has begun doing a film series with FACT TV producing Emerging Adults – Search for meaning that will be shown throughout the summer. Other positive articles have been written that highlight the services and connections in the community.

HCRS now has a Facebook page with 113 followers. George noted that the most popular posting to date has been the announcement of Sally Ann Silfies as the newest HCRS Board member.

HCRS has been working closely with National Council consultants and Vermont Care Partners to prepare for the coming changes due to health care reform.

HCRS is trying to have local showings of Healing Voices throughout Windham and Windsor counties. Healing Voices is a documentary that follows the lives of three people with experiences of psychosis or mental illness over nearly five years.

Opi – Blueprint for Health – Crystal will send this information out to this group. Register ahead of time and is free of charge.

Client Satisfaction Survey: George shared the results of the 2015 Client Satisfaction Survey. There were 846 client responses, resulting in a 21% increase from last year and a 34% overall response rate. Some highlights include: 96% of clients feel that HCRS is making a difference in their lives, 95% of

clients feel they are treated with respect and made to feel welcome, and overall satisfaction increased from 89% to 90%.

WIFI not available in the PRC: Some folks addressed concerns around not having WIFI available in the PRC. George explained that he will talk with IT to help get that set up again. Another router will need to be installed to get that up and running.

Children's Update:

Chrissy Cheney provided an update on what's happening in the Children's Standing Committee. They have reviewed the core requirements for this committee and will regroup back in Septemeber. They had an opportunity to review the client satisfaction survey and were happy with the results. The committee will be looking at the 7 challenges in September once they reconvene in the fall. Chrissy also shared they had a few guest speakers attend some of their meetings that were helpful and informative. There has been an influx of members serving on the committee and they are currently looking for new members to join the group. Sally Ann Silfies, HCRS Board member will now serve on the committee replacing Sarah Carter who served as the Board representative.

The Summer Therapeutic Program (STP) is starting up in a couple of weeks in all three areas. It's an alternative camp for children who may not be able to attend a traditional camp setting.

Developmental Services Update:

Lori Lintner provided an update on what's happening in the Developmental Services program. "Dream Big, Think Work" was theme of the Green Mountain Self-Advocates 18th annual Self-Advocacy Conference which took place on May 9th and 10th in Burlington, VT. Over 600 people attended this conference with many different workshops offered to participants, including an Employment Idol contest, workshops about employment and self-advocacy, a dinner dance, and more.

The development of the 2017 System of Care Plan is under way for the Developmental Service Program.

NCI survey – federal survey: Clients from HCRS are participating in the NCI Survey. States conduct a face-to-face survey with randomly selected individuals receiving services. In addition, families are randomly selected for a survey by mail. Data from these interviews and surveys are used to create state reports about individual outcomes; health, welfare, and rights; staff stability and competency; family outcomes and system performance.

Special Olympics: 16 players went to the tournament at UVM for basketball and they brought home the gold medal. A swim team was formed in the Brattleboro area and soccer will begin in the Fall.

All service coordinator positions have been filled.

The QSR is done and the management team is putting together a response.

Adult Program Update:

Last month the group voted for a new chair person and there was a tie. A revote will be done in July. Grace has been voted in as the new secretary and responsibilities were discussed for members of the group.

On May 27, a spring potluck and tie dye event will take place.

A floral arrangement with the help of Woodbury Florist was held.

The next Adult Standing committee meeting is scheduled for July 11th.

Smoking Shed: Discussion took place around the use of a smoking shed for use on rainy days. Currently smokers use the bus stop area as a means of cover when there is bad weather. Can a shed be built at the smoking area? George noted his concerns around that and noted it requires further discussion.

George reiterated to the group he has an open door policy and welcomes people to visit

Smoking cessation classes are being offered in the Hartford office and Brad congratulated all of the HCRS staff who are now smoke free.

In Shape Program – Katie Duncan is leading this initiative and the plan is trying to expand this over the next year.

Possible award ceremony for standing committees.

Meeting adjourned!

Next meeting: The next Joint Standing Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 6, 2016 at 12:00 PM. Lunch will be provided.

Minutes by Crystal Morey, Recorder