

## **National Consumer Council Meeting**

Monday, July 6, 2009

San Francisco Hilton

**Consumer Council Representatives, Alternates, Proxies Present:** Sylvia Richey (AL), Blanche Criss (AK), Chuck "Claire" Swinford (AZ), Kathy Redman (CO), Jennifer Helsel (FL), Alan McDaniel (GA), Randolph Hack (HI), Gene Salois (ID), Susan Ling (IL), Steve Miller (IA), Michael Boyd (IN), Rhonda Moreland (KS), Chris Whittington (KY), Denver Nobles (LA), Howard Trachtman (MA), Colleen Jokinen (MI), Catherine Roach (MN), Marie Jackson (MT), Ken Timmerman (NE), Donna Shibovich (NV), Salvina Cappello (NJ), John Coon (NY), Gabe Howard (OH), Juliana Bucher (OK), Polly Brogan (PA), Charles Feldman (RI), Yancey Wise (SC), Rhonda Palm (SD), Liz Felt (UT), Cheryl DeHaven (VA), Helen Nilon WA), Misty Barnhill (WI), Anne Chi (WY)

**Consumer Council Executive Committee Members Present:** Rick Huber, Mark Arneson, Rose Delaney, Steve Miller, Denver Nobles, Marty Raaymakers

**Staff:** Valerie Hunter

9:00 am: Rick Huber opened the meeting.

9:05am: Mike Fitzpatrick, the ED of NAMI, spoke to the group about the current state of the organization and its fiscal picture in the midst of this challenging economic situation: things look good for NAMI National. Our national brand continues to be more visible and be seen in the popular culture. NAMI is looking to make all of our educational programs web friendly. NAMI is looking at a three year stabilization grant for NAMI Connection. The MOU (memorandum of understanding) with F2F in VA facilities will continue to expand and our hope is for this happen to with Connection and other programs as well. NAMI e-membership has allowed membership to grow since inception to 11,000 new members. NAMI sees consumers as integrated in all areas of NAMI and this continues to be a key theme. It's important to use the Grading the States Report as a tool to help improve services and legislation. Health care reform is key; accessibility and financing must occur for mental illness to be a full player and for us to go beyond "parity". Work with us to help integrate the consumer voice into all of NAMI! Question and answer with cc reps ensued.

**Additional Comments:**

Marie Jackson from MT is on Standards Workgroup and is happy to bring information from the CC to the Standards Workgroup.

Marty Raaymakers spoke of her role on the board and to the cc, and discussed the peer specialist workshop happening opposite of cc networking session and welcomed all those present to both workshops.

9:40 am: Rick Huber presented the Ken Steele Award to Denver Nobles. Denver spoke to the group about the meaning of the work he's doing and the importance of heart.

9:45 am: Howard Trachtman discussed the importance of the work of restraint and seclusion and presented the Gloria Huntley Award to the MA Department of MH and they spoke of the progress being made around restraint and seclusion concerns.

10:00 am: Roll call occurred. Reminder was given to the group to ensure that representatives, alternates and proxies are confirmed by state leadership in order to be "counted" as the voice for his/her respective state in the meeting.

10:05 am: Issue of ballot voting presented by Rick Huber to the council. Some discussion ensued. **A vote was held and the results were: 29 in favor of having one ballot with multiple positions and 1 vote in favor of having a ballot for each position. From this meeting forward, there will be one ballot with multiple positions (thus, precluding non elected persons from going from one position to the next position in the meeting's voting process).**

As there were no nominations from the floor, the consumer council voted unanimously for Rick Huber and Rose Delaney to continue for the next two years in their respective roles as cc chair and cc member-at-large.

A 15 minute break was taken

10:30 am Susan Vogel Scibilia asked for consumers to come and complete a questionnaire for research in the lobby and get \$5 as a thank you. She mentioned that Steve Miller was a co-author with her on a journal article.

10:35 pm Rick Huber explained the rationale of compiling and writing a consumer council guide/toolkit and asked that the consumer council become involved in what the executive committee has been working on with since September. Ad hoc committees were formed to complete their corresponding sections:

1. **Welcome and Orientation: Mark Arneson (committee chair)**, Randy Hack, Juliana, Anne Chi (annecchi@gmail.com), Mason Tuck, Rhonda Palm, Claire Swinford, Donna Shibovich, Catherine Roach, Chris Wittington, John Coon, Howard Trachtman
2. **National Consumer Council: Steve Miller (committee chair)**, Rhonda Moreland, Colleen, Cheryl DeHaven, Chris Wittington, Misty Barnhill, Liz Felt

3. **State and Affiliate Consumer Councils: Rose Delaney and Denver Nobles (co-committee chairs)** Ken Timmerman, Susan Ling, Polly Brogan, Charles Feldman, Kathy Redman, Yancey Wise, Robin Connell, Salvina Cappello, Gene Salois, BJ Criss, Chris Wittington, Sarah Parfait, Glenn Koons
4. **Operating Procedures: Rose Delaney (committee chair)**, Suzanne Vogel Scibilia, Marie Jackson, Helsel, Chris Wittington, Liz Felt, Kimberli Kercher (kjdercher3@gmail.com)
5. **Seclusion and Restraint: Howard Trachtman (committee chair)**, Helen Nilon, Sylvia Richey, Claire Swinford, Chris Wittington

Additional Comments: Glenn Koons asked Joyte Shaw to speak to the cc and Jody discussed the importance of including veterans and other populations. Graham Champion spoke to the cc about being inclusive of consumer groups and the importance of “we”. Paul Kamarek also spoke to the cc about consumer outreach. Marty Raaymakers and Harriet Kronick discussed NAMI Connection luncheon tomorrow and distributed tickets. Valerie discussed where to get Value Options tickets for lunch on Wed. and Thursday. Steve Miller asked the group to get a stronger presence since without consumers there would be no NAMI. Mark Arneson invited new reps/proxies to join him for lunch today as a way of welcoming in new members.

11:40 am: The larger meeting was formally adjourned so new committees would have an opportunity to meet.