

**CENTERPOINT HUMAN SERVICES**  
**CFAC MEETING – Approved Minutes**  
**March 9, 2009**

**Location: Forsyth County, CenterPoint Human Services**

Members Present: Timothy Blake, Chair, Jessica Romahn, Vice Chair, Tracey Goodwin, Secretary, Michielle Cutter, Marguerite Hutchison-Rhodes, Janet Childress, Obie Johnson Jr., Bill Donahue

Members Absent: Emma Oehman, Mary Lee, Julie Whitaker, Michelle Brake, Ken Jordan

Guest Staff Present: Gladys Christian, Ellen Nicola; Jessica Romahn

Division Liaison Present: Suzanne Bellian

LME Liaison Present: Caroline Steele

Board Liaison: not present

Guests Present:

Kathy Holland, Ricky Graves (Rockingham), Kim Southard (Rockingham), Monica O'Dell (Rockingham), Laura Keeney, Tommy Thompson, Jayne Koeslin, Yolanda Floyd, James Pinckney, Kathryn Haas

I. Call to Order, Approval of Minutes, Introductions & Welcome : Tim Blake, Chair, called meeting to order at 5:30pm. Quorum was established. Guests present were acknowledged and introduced. Visitors from Rockingham County CFAC were, Ricky Graves, Kim Southard and Monica O'Dell. Minutes were read for Feb. 9<sup>th</sup> meeting and a correction to Marguerite Hutchison-Rhodes name was made. After this change, a motion was made to approve minutes, motion carried.

II. Public Comment Kathy Holland and Caroline Steele exchanged emails regarding the gentleman who was released from ARCA after a 2 night stay and was discharged on a Sunday without a transition plan and a place of residence. Ms. Holland thanked Caroline Steele for her follow up said the gentleman is in a residential facility for 6 months through a church in Clemmons.

Michielle Cutter questioned why an individual who resides at a homeless shelter would be suspended for 30 days because he/she and stayed out one evening. Obie Johnson said that there will be closed meeting on 3/27/09 for the homeless to discuss their rights and responsibilities. Mr. Johnson offered personal contacts and to advocate for the homeless.

III. Division Staff Report

Suzanne Bellian reported on anticipated State budget cuts as proposed in Governor Perdue's budget. There are 320 pages in the overall budget proposal that covered reductions and information regarding the Division of Health and Human Services and specifically directed at MHDDSAS services. Proposed closing of Wright and Whitaker Schools for children are included in the proposed budget cuts. Twenty five beds each at Broughton and Cherry Hospitals are proposed to be cut as well. LME's across the board should expect further administrative cuts and Community Services statewide may see as much as \$25 million in cuts. Services for consumers will be cut.

Rockingham County is merging with CenterPoint Human Services as of July 1, 2009. The vote on this intent to merge was a unanimous decision by Rockingham County Commissioners. A CFAC member asked if the division has any deciding factor of what County chooses with a particular LME. Suzanne Bellian reported that it is at the discretion of the county as to who they decide to merge with.

#### IV. LME Update

Dr. Ellen Nicola, Quality Systems Manager, announced that CenterPoint's Annual Needs Assessment, a requirement in the performance contract with the Division, is due in this 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of the FY by 3/31/09. She explained that she is the lead on the task and that CenterPoint assesses and documents identified needs all year long, as noted on the list she handed out and in the "Service Challenges and Strategies" section of the Quarterly Reports to the Board of Commissioners. Ellen discussed the required elements of this years' annual needs assessment (another handout) and the importance, as well as requirement, of including CFAC in the process. She requested that the committee identify what it sees as the priority needs and to provide that information to her within the next week. She presented the sample consumer survey provided by the Division and asked the committee for feedback during the meeting, pointing out that the length of the survey may be prohibitive. Members suggested creating a shorter version and said that a similar needs assessment survey was recently written, but not yet distributed, for consumers with developmental disabilities to assess interests. Methods of distributing a CenterPoint consumer survey were considered: email vs. hardcopies in service provider lobbies. CFAC favors the latter and some members offered to help with the distribution of surveys.

Laura Keeney, former CFAC member and guest at this meeting, asked Ellen why she waited this long to start the needs assessment. Ellen explained that while there is only about 3 weeks left until it is due, it was not until late February that we received clear direction from the Division in reference to the expected content of the needs assessment. This task is a new responsibility for Ellen. CenterPoint staff met last month about the report, and she is confident the survey and report will be completed by the due date.

CFAC members suggested surveys be delivered to the following locations:  
Behavioral Health Plaza  
Battered Women Shelter  
Crystal Towers

## Developmental Disability Advisory Committee Meeting this Thursday

Dr. Nicola asked for anyone to email her with ideas/input.

Caroline Steele discussed the Referral For Application (RFA) Panels that met towards the end of February and reviewed the Providers who applied for IPRS/State and County Funding. Four CFAC members participated and provided feedback on the process. Providers that submitted application responses were told that due to budget shortfalls there may be fewer providers and consequently fewer services. CFAC suggested for additional stakeholders in the community not applying for IPRS Funding participate in the panel process.

Caroline informed the CFAC members involved with the Human Rights and the Quality Improvement Council meetings need to be prepared to discuss key CFAC activities related to the group they attend. The CFAC representative in turn needs to be able to come back to the CFAC meeting and report the activities of the Human Rights and Quality Improvement Council Meetings to the CFAC group.

### V. Housekeeping

Mr. Blake thanked all CFAC members who participated in the RFA process. It was also noted that he and Ms. Romahn met with the Providers Council with the intent of sharing information and ideas from both sides of the table for the betterment of services for the consumers.

The Mental Health Association 2008 Survey will be available soon. It will be available on line at the Forsyth County Mental Health website.

The Legislative Breakfast has been rescheduled to a later date; CFAC will be asked to participate.

Mr. Blake discussed The Community collaborative assessment and report. There are 25 individuals involved. The Mission of the Collaborative is to identify problems and gaps in the community and provide feedback.

Ms. Christian, CenterPoint Peer Support Specialist has been appointed to be on the State CFAC. She was nominated by Jeff Eads and will serve on the board for 3 years. State CFAC encourages local CFAC members to go on website and take the course for local LME boards. <http://www.dhhs.state.nc.us/mhddsas/scfac/>

Ms. Romahn gathered training information for registered CFAC members to review in our packet along with acronyms and a glossary to help with “the alphabet soup” in the world of the LME. Also, in the packet are two Seminars and CEU’s available. There is Advocacy training; no CEU’s offered. Mental Wellness: Achieving A Balance presented by Mecklenburg Healthy Carolinians and Mecklenburg County Health Department. This training is free but registration is required.

Ms. Hutchison-Rhodes has developed a survey to capture the needs for adults with developmental disabilities post secondary activities who do not have a high school Diploma; some examples are recreation, employment, advocacy, art, community home/independent living and transportation. She informed CFAC that there are 560 CAP recipients and 600 people on the waiting list. Because of budget cuts for respite care and long waiting list for The Enrichment Center there is a greater need for adults with developmental disabilities after completion of school-based activities. She requested for CFAC to provide funding for mass mailing the surveys. Due to the time, this topic was tabled for the April meeting.

VI: Motion to Close

The meeting concluded at 7:40pm. There was a motion made for the first two items on the April agenda is to further discuss the survey for people with Developmental disabilities and to discuss the Forsyth County MHDDSAS Project. Motion granted. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 13<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm.