



Recovery Stakeholder Committee Meeting

Thursday, January 14, 2016

9:30 am – 12:00 pm

Hogg Foundation RLS Room, 4th Floor
3001 Lake Austin Blvd., Austin, TX 78703

AGENDA

- 9:30 Welcome, Impromptu Networking
- 10:00 Formation:
 - Member Introductions
 - Discussion and adoption of charter
- 10:30 Via Hope's mission and purpose
- 11:00 What does Via Hope Do?
 - Highlights from Statement of Work for new DSHS contract
 - Staffing and organization changes related to SOW
 - Updates from each unit manager
- 11:30 Election of chair and vice chair
 - Self Nominations and voting for Chair
 - Self nominations and voting for Vice-chair
 - Future Direction(s) for Via Hope; planning meeting in April
- 12:00 Adjourn and lunch

Minutes from the meeting follow on the next page.

Our Mission: We provide education, training, and consultation to empower individuals, families, and youth to develop resilience, achieve recovery, and further mental health system transformation.



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Thursday, January 14, 2016

9:30 am – 12:00 pm

Welcome, Impromptu Networking

The Director of Via Hope called the meeting to order at 9:35 am. The Committee members present were Stormy Holifield, Janet Paleo, Shea Meadows, Stephen Sellers, Shane DeLosSantos, Wayne Gregory, Verlyn Johnson, Merideth Erickson, Shannon Carr. Not present were Robin Peyson, Joseph Sanchez, and Angie Jackson.

Via Hope staff present were Dennis Bach, Shane Whalley, and Michele Murphy-Smith. Stephany Bryant from the Hogg Foundation was present. There were no staff from the Department of State Health Services (DSHS).

The group first engaged in an exercise known as Impromptu Networking as a way to start getting to know each other. They next did more traditional introductions, giving their names, where they are from, and the organization or interest they represent.

Formation

Mr. Bach explained that Via Hope has had an advisory committee since its inception. For various reasons, the membership of that group has declined in the last year. The draft statement of work for the new DSHS contract renames the group as the Recovery Stakeholders Committee and revises the membership categories somewhat. Following discussion with the program officers for DSHS and the Hogg Foundation, it was decided to start a new group with all new members appointed by the Director of Via Hope. The members in attendance were all invited to be part of this new group. The most significant difference in membership is that the Stakeholders Committee has more representation from the substance use community.

The group reviewed the draft committee charter that had been provided in advance and recommended a few minor changes. Following the discussion, the charter as amended was adopted by voice vote. The approved charter is attached.

Via Hope's mission and purpose

The group reviewed and discussed Via Hope's current mission and vision statements through a 1-2-4-all discussion process focused on the question: "How does empowering individuals,



families, and youth to develop resilience and achieve recovery help further mental health system transformation?” Some of the ideas that surfaced included:

- Empowerment for families is making the system work for their needs.
- The more wellness you have spreads when you have empowerment and that leads to transformation.
- Finding your voice provides empowerment and transformation of what works and what is needed.
- Being able to see hope in someone and seeing hope within oneself (mirror image).
- Transforming the system is a big challenge but possible. Peer Specialists bring in a different conversation and are mindful of a unique relationship.

The group also briefly discussed whether empowering individuals is enough by itself to promote system transformation or whether there also needs to be concurrent work directly with organizations. Via Hope has sponsored both types of activities.

Mr. Bach explained that the mission and vision statement were developed at least four years ago when Via Hope was much newer and that over the next year, with the committee’s help, it needs to be updated. He stated that the primary value in a stakeholder group like this is providing recommendations for what Via Hope should be doing in 3-5 years, rather than what it is currently doing or will do in the next year.

What does Via Hope Do?

Mr. Bach briefly explained the history and current organizational status of Via Hope. After being a program housed in two different organizational homes, Via Hope is now a nonprofit organization (legal name: Mental Health Resource of Texas) created specifically to be Via Hope. Via Hope has a three year grant from the Hogg Foundation and has submitted a proposal for a new five year grant from the Department of State Health Services. That grant has not been awarded yet, but the organization is confident it will receive the contract.

One of the responsibilities of the Stakeholders Committee will be to consider alternate types of funding to be developed in anticipation of the end of Hogg Foundation funding in three years. This will be in addition to assistance in re-visualizing the vision and mission of Via Hope. Any



recommendations that require formal action by the nonprofit will be forwarded to the organization's Board of Directors.

In the DSHS Request for Proposals and the draft contract, there are more references to working with Recovery Community Organizations (RCOs) and making the peer specialist endorsement trainings more accessible to Certified Recovery Coaches. RCOs are similar to Consumer Operated Service Providers (COSPs) in the substance use world, and Certified Recovery Coaches are similar to Certified Peer Specialists. The committee discussed the confusion that exists across the state regarding the similarities and differences between peer specialists and recovery coaches. Two new members of the Stakeholders Committee represent RCOs.

The contract also requires that minutes of the Recovery Stakeholder Committee and the CPS and CFP Advisor Councils be posted on Via Hope's website. Via Hope staff will provide guidance to the two Councils on how to write and format minutes consistently.

Mr. Bach briefly described the organizational chart for Via Hope. The organization has four programmatic units and a business/finance unit. Next, the managers of two of the programmatic units discussed highlights of what their units are currently working on.

Shane Whalley, manager of the Peer and Family Leadership Unit covered the following points:

- The unit was recently re-organized to include all workforce training and Peer and Family Voice activities in one unit.
- The CPS curriculum has been updated and will be used for the first time at the January CPS training
- A curriculum is under development for a new Community Re-entry training for peer specialists, in conjunction with the DSHS Rider 73 project.
- The next PIR Voice project is about to launch with an application for a new group of people in recovery to learn leadership skills.
- Recovery Reads is continuing. It is now a set of online discussions
- As part of a Recovery to Practice grant from the Hogg Foundation, we are conducting *Next Steps* training this Spring for experienced CPSs.
- We are actively interviewing candidates for a Workforce Training Coordinator position

Michele Murphey-Smith, Manager of the Recovery Institute, discussed plans for the remainder of the contract period. This will be an unusual year, due to the uncertainty around DSHS funding and the consequent late start. She first summarized the history of the Recovery Institute and then discussed plans for this year.



- The first organizational change work performed by Via Hope was through the Peer Specialist Learning Community. That was followed by the Recovery Focused Learning Community and then the Recovery Institute with multiple programs.
- The overall purpose of the RI is to provide participating leadership teams with space and resources to plan and implement intentional organizational change. An underlying assumption is the value of cross team collaboration and learning, therefore these programs are usually provided using a learning community model.
- Every year the program models have been tweaked to make them more effective.
- One underlying assumption in the design of the Recovery institute is that different organizations are at different stages of readiness for change.
 - The Leadership Academy is the entry level program
 - The Peer Specialist Integration Project works with organizations to more effectively integrate peer services into the organization
 - Person Centered Recover Planning Program is the most complex and intensive. Issues of implementation of the practice of PCRP in the organization, and coaching of staff are included. It is considered a Recovery institute Program but is its own unit in Via Hope.
 - We plan to continue to branch out and work with teams from more agencies over time.
- For FY2016, we are planning to conduct Regional Immersion Experience workshops in Lubbock, Brownsville, College Station and Dallas during March and April, 2016
 - The workshops will bring together both individuals and organizations who have participated in previous RI programs and individuals/organizations that have not worked with Via Hope.
 - People attending will share information, make connections and influence the plans for FY2017.
 - The regional seminars will also help promote the application process for the next round of traditional recovery institute programs. The application will be released in early summer, for programs starting in the fall.
- In the last year and a half, we have also begun developing online training modules, particularly as an introduction to Person Centered Planning.
- Wrap Across Texas is an initiative to make WRAP more widely available in Texas. Individuals applying to be trained as WRAP facilitators will have to apply with support from an organization.

Mr. Bach explained that the manager of the Person Centered Recover Planning Unit was unable to attend as she was conducting a PCRP training that day. He said that the DSHS RFP placed a heavy emphasis on disseminating the practice of PCRP across the state and that Via Hope would be putting significant emphasis on that.

Following the two presentations, the committee discussed how Via Hope can help bring the Family Partners and Peer Specialist communities together more closely. One committee member mentioned a local provider that was requiring applicants for peer specialist and family partner positions to have



college degrees and inquired whether that was a state requirement. Via Hope staff assured her that it is not and is actually an inappropriate requirement.

Election of chair and vice chair; Future Direction(s) for Via Hope

The charter adopted at the beginning of the meeting called for the group to elect a Chair and Vice Chair to preside over the meetings. The election of the chair and vice chair was scheduled for the end of the meeting to give people an opportunity to learn more about the committee and each other before selecting someone to lead the group. It was intended to be a self-nomination process followed by a vote. By the time the committee reached this item on the agenda, the meeting was somewhat behind schedule, and the director suggested that the election be deferred to the next meeting. This will provide individuals more opportunity to think about whether they want to nominate themselves and also provide an opportunity for the two individuals who were not present. The committee members agreed to this plan.

The final discussion item concerned the next meeting, scheduled for Thursday, April 14. Mr. Bach suggested the committee meet for a longer period of time than the initial meeting, to provide more time for planning. Via Hope will look into providing an external facilitator to help with the next meeting. The committee agreed that beginning at 9:30 and ending around 3:00 or 3:30 would work for everyone.

The meeting was officially adjourned at noon. Lunch was brought in so that committee members could remain somewhat longer and have more informal discussion.