



**CPS Advisory Council Meeting  
Friday, January 12, 2018**

**Agenda Items**

- I. Agenda Item 1 - Welcome and Introductions
- II. Agenda Item 2 - Roll Call & Approval of Minutes
- III. Agenda Item 3 - Updates from Noah Abdenour on HB 1486
- IV. Agenda Item 4 - Review of Old Business / Subcommittee Updates & Sign-Ups
- V. Agenda Item 5 - New Business / Professional Development

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### ***Minutes Pending Formal Adoption by Council***

Purpose of Meeting: In-person quarterly meeting of the Via Hope CPS Advisory Council

The meeting was called to order at 9:04 am by Larry Diaz.

Council Members in Attendance were: Kate Anderson, Randie Benno, Jack Brown, Michael Cox, Larry Diaz, Tommy Higgs, Stacy Jones, Lora Keech, Glenda Luco, Ginny Morgan, Jess Mulliniks, Lisa Pous, Cassy Ramirez, Lisa Rawls, Jerry Wainwright.

Council Members Absent: Jim Cochrun, Cindy Trevino

Via Hope Staff in attendance: Christina Carney, Liz Castaneda, Darcy Kues, Sandra Smith

**Approval of Minutes:** Council reviewed minutes from October 2017 Council meeting. In April, Council will also review and approve minutes from July 2017.

**MOTION** - "To approve the October 2017 minutes as presented." Motion made by Stacy Jones, seconded by Ginny Morgan and approved unanimously.

#### **UPDATES FROM NOAH ABDENOUR ON HB 1486**

In order to inform the Advisory Council on the current work being done by the HB 1486 ("Peer Services Bill") external workgroup, Noah Abdenour from Bluebonnet Trails gave a short presentation on the history of the legislative advocacy that eventually led to HB 1486 being passed, the current language of the bill, what the legislature tasked the workgroup to decide, and what that may mean for peer work in Texas. After providing a short presentation, Noah answered questions from the Council about HB 1486, the workgroup, and other issues related to Medicaid and peer support in Texas.

#### **REVIEW OF OLD BUSINESS / SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES & SIGN-UPS**

The Chair of each Subcommittee provided a brief description of events related to the Subcommittee's work. First, Ginny Morgan discussed what Governance and Policy Subcommittee has been doing related to professionalism, ethics, and values of peer specialists, and outlined the process for ethics complaints for new members.

Next, Glenda Luco gave an overview of the Membership Subcommittee and ideas for the Membership Subcommittee to address. She also discussed Via Hope's re-opening of applications for CPS Council so that the 2017-2019 Cohort has additional members. During the conversation, the Council discussed



updating the charter to reflect when (and if) people who roll off can apply to rejoin the Council, mentorship by members who are rolling off to mentor people who are just joining the Council, and the creation of some kind of onboarding document for new members (a welcome packet).

Tommy Higgs provided an update on the work of the Curriculum & Professional Development Subcommittee. First, Tommy discussed the update to the CPS exam, including the October Subcommittee workgroup that reviewed the exam. Tommy also gave a brief overview of the professional development discussion held in October and gave a preview of the conversation planned for later in the January meeting. Finally, Tommy informed the Council members on the new Via Hope website that will launch on February 1.

After each Chair discussed their respective Subcommittee, Darcy outlined the process for new members to sign up to join Subcommittees and provided sign-up sheets for the Council to fill out.

#### **NEW BUSINESS / PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

The Council held a discussion on certification ladders for Certified Peer Specialist. Tommy Higgs began the discussion by presenting his findings on other states' certification ladders. The Council then had time to review all documents presented and make notes before starting discussion; documents included minutes from the May 2016 CPS Council meeting, documents from the Certified Family Partner certification ladder process, and notes created by Tommy Higgs on other state certification ladders.

Christina Carney and Darcy Kues then led the Council in a Liberating Structure (1-2-4-All) to facilitate discussion on multiple important considerations related to developing a certification ladder for peer specialists. The Council divided into four groups and held discussions on the following issues: (1) what constitutes "work" for the purposes of advanced certifications, (2) continuing education requirements and specialized knowledge, (3) evidence of leadership necessary for advanced certifications, and (4) what subjective questions are important to ask on an advanced certification application. After each group discussed their respective question, they gave a 5-minute report to the entire Council. After the report, the Council held a 10-minute discussion.

The Council identified a number of other issues for the Council to discuss for advanced certifications (in addition to the questions above), including letters of recommendation and requirements about the number of hours or years a peer specialist must work in order to be eligible for an advanced certification.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN** – Motion made by Randie Benno and seconded by Stacy Jones. Motion passes unanimously and meeting adjourned at 3:44pm.