

Oklahoma 2-1-1 Advisory Collaborative

Meeting Minutes

March 29, 2006

DHS - Aging Services Division

Welcome:

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 am by Toni Frioux, Chair. Those in attendance introduced themselves.

Voting Members Present by Roll Call:

Edwina Riddick-Scott with Proxy for David Bernstein, AIRSO

Brook Borden, Office of Homeland Security

Dirk Tenzythoff with Proxy for Kathleen Coan, Tulsa Area United Way

Pam Cross, Heartline, Inc.

Tom Thompson, Okla. State Dept. of Mental Health & Substance Abuse

Toni Frioux, OK State Dept. of Health

Raymond Haddock, OK Dept. of Human Services

Mary Howell, OK Dept. of Rehabilitative Services

Jim Lyall, 2-1-1 Tulsa Helpline

Larry Olmstead, Oklahoma Turning Point

Madalyn McCollom, OASIS

Kelley Riha, Okla. City Metropolitan Library System

Helene Schwartz, United Way of Ponca City

Kay Seymour, Oklahoma Telephone Association

Crystal Stuhr with Proxy for D.J. Thompson, United Way of Central Oklahoma

LaQuita Thornley, Okla. Assoc. of Community Action Agencies

Steve Willoughby, Okla. Assoc. of Regional Councils

Deborah Price with Proxy for Brad Yarbrough, Office of Faith Based & Community Initiatives

Guests Present:

Latricia Bryant – Southeastern Oklahoma 211

Carrie Wiggs – OKDHS 211 Coordinator

1. Approval of Minutes from February meeting: A copy of the February minutes had been sent with meeting notice and attached to meeting packets.

Motion made by Helene Schwartz to approve minutes. Second by Edwina Riddick-Scott. Motion carried by Roll Call Vote.

2. AmeriCorps Vista: Deborah Price presented information on statewide application. She reported that there would need to be a central administrative host to make sure standards were met, but each call center would be able to recruit, train and supervise their own volunteers and report back to the administrative host. What is needed is a concept paper, one and a half pages with executive summary. This would be approved in about a week, and then we would need a business plan with job responsibilities, workplan, timeline and strategies. Helene reported on some of the background on the AmeriCorps Vista program. The Vista program, the domestic Peace Corps, with community organizations, volunteers receiving a living allowance of approximately \$9000 and an optional educational award or \$1200 stipend.

She said that the strategy must not be to help those in poverty but to eliminate poverty. She suggested using Vista volunteer at 211 call center to help with marketing and/or outreach, not direct service and the activities must be related to poverty elimination. Helene said they have been approved for application and their volunteers will be used to organize community outreach and develop MOUs, and look for funding to develop infrastructure. Latricia Bryant reported on Ada's Vista volunteers. It is recommended that there be 2 volunteers at each call center site. Benefits are also covered. Volunteers may have experience as needed, based on job description. Each site would have a supervisor who would go to training with volunteers. Deborah and her office have agreed to state administrative host and develop the concept paper. Helene suggested sending out information to all call centers about this to see if enough volunteers are needed. AmeriCorps Vista would like to see at least 15 used.

Motion was made by LaQuita Thornley to move forward with application process with AmeriCorps Vista. Second by Pam Cross. Motion carried.

3. Changes to By-Laws: Amendments to By-Laws had been sent out at least 10 days prior to this meeting. Toni Frioux thanked the committee for their work on the By-Laws.

Motion was made by LaQuita Thornley to approve recommended changes, Second by Mary Howell.

Discussion:

Helene Schwartz discussed representation of the United Way Agencies with only one (1) vote. She said she had discussed this with many of the other UW directors and felt that it was important to know that all United Ways are different. Also asked everyone to remember that United Way has been committed to funding 211. She said that she felt Tulsa and OKC United Way should remain on as voting members.

Brook Borden reminded everyone that they could stay on as non-voting members.

Jim Lyall stated that he felt United Ways were important stakeholders, especially if only 1/3 funding for 211 comes from legislature, so the commitment from United Way is important.

Kirk Tenzythoff stated that the funding was important, that ongoing fundraising and advocating for more funding may be made more difficult if they only have one (1) vote on the Collaborative. He reported that some of their largest funders will have more assurances when asked for more money if United Ways has more members at the table.

Pam Cross pointed out the information resources and network opportunities United Way provides at the national level.

Brook Borden said that the changes were meant to reflect consistency in membership, and had no reflection on value or need. But she pointed out

that media can look at appropriations and we want to eliminate any perception of inconsistency.

Raymond Haddock asked if some do not feel the United Way Association does not adequately represent all of the United Ways.

Motion was made by Pam Cross to amend the original motion to change the recommended amendment to leave Tulsa and Oklahoma City United Ways on as voting members and the member at large at one (1). Second by Dirk Tenzythoff. There were 5 Yes, 5 No, and 8 Abstentions. Motion did not pass.

Further discussion:

Edwina Riddick-Scott pointed out that rural United Ways do not feel they are often heard or well represented and that the United Ways in Tulsa and OKC do not understand the needs of the rural ones.

Motion was made by Mary Howell to amend the original motion with changes to have two (2) designees for United Way Association, 1 rural and 1 urban, with the at-large members remaining at 3. Second by Dirk Tenzythoff. There were 7 yes, 4 No, and 6 Abstentions (one voting member no longer present). Motion Carried.

A change to Article IV – Mission & Responsibilities was discussed. Motion was made by Jim Lyall to responsibilities #11 to read “Using an established formula, provide recommendations to the administrating entity responsible for the allocation of funds appropriated for 2-1-1.” Second by Raymond Haddock. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Original motion to approve changes to By-Laws with the above amendments carried by unanimous vote.

4. Legislative Report: Carrie Wiggs reported that legislators have reported they are enjoying using 211 in those areas that are live. There is a correction to the amount of the legislative request to “an increase of \$508,150 above last year’s appropriation”. She said the legislators wanted clarification in the increase over last year so it would reflect an actual amount instead of an increase of \$1.1 million. Carrie also reported that changes are being made to the literature and website to list potential Call Centers/Helplines without the 211 designation to avoid appearance of pre-selection. She said now we are in a waiting period. There is no bill at this point and it will depend on how much money the committee has to work with.

Helene Schwartz discussed the need for “planning” dollars for potential call centers.

Jim Lyall stated there needs to be serious expression of planning capability by potential centers and suggested the entity must put together a proposal with specifics.

5. 2-1-1 Wireless: Jim Lyall reported that the research department at OKDHS has been doing some work on the cellular issue. Pam Cross reported that the AIDS Care fund wants to use 211 in OKC on their billboard, but that will need to have cell phone coverage. She said that they have talked to Jackie Cooper who can bring top cellular leaders to a meeting with OKC 211 to discuss wireless coverage.
6. AIRSO: Edwina Riddick-Scott reported that she had a vision for an active association providing a platform for certification and later for accreditation. They are looking for a new fiscal agent.
7. JOIN/211: Madalyn McCollom reported that the database collaboration was moving forward, policies and procedures had been drafted and the technical needs were being addressed. The initial uploads should begin in April as planned.
8. New business to be considered for next meeting: Brook Borden discussed the issue of making 211 information available in emergencies and the need to develop a process for getting information to 211 call centers.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, April 26, 10:00 am at Aging Services Division.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted by

Madalyn McCollom
Secretary, Oklahoma 211 Advisory Collaborative

Approved _____