



BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date: March 12, 2008, 5:00 pm

Location: Valley Cities Counseling and Consultation, Auburn, WA

Board members present:

Non-Fiduciary	Trisha Blomquist	Kim Bennett	Karin Schuyleman
	Lora Dear	Betty Nomura	DeDe White
Fiduciary	Don Lincoln	Vyrn Muir	

Board members excused: David Zehner Margie Staulcup Rebecca Holderman
Beth Adams Marsha Medgard Ralph Talarico
Venus Talarico

Guests present: Susie Winston, Sound Mental Health
Dawn Cherne, Board Prospect, Valley Cities Counseling & Consultation

Staff members present: Dianne Heide Denese Bohanna Cyndy Schrage
Jennifer Cooper

Call to order –Chair Don Lincoln called the meeting to order at 5:15 pm

Quorum – There was not a quorum.

Approval of February 13 Minutes

Tabled until April because there was not a quorum.

Safe N Bright Futures Pilot

Susie Winston, Director of Counseling, Sound Mental Health reported that the project is off to a good start and thanked the board for providing \$10,000 in bridge funding. She stressed that the funding will continue to be an issue for the project if they are going to continue with their work. They are presently researching grant opportunities through other organizations.

The pilot project was the direct result of the work done through the Safe N Bright Futures project. The pilot is called the Children's Domestic Violence Response Team and is designed to reach some important goals by building collaboration between mental health providers and advocates. The projected outcomes include:

Family Outcomes

- Decrease trauma symptoms exhibited by children.
- Reduce children's externalizing behaviors as observed in school, community, and family settings.
- Reduce children's internalizing behaviors.
- Increase protective/resiliency factors available to children and their supportive parents.
- Reduce children's negative beliefs related to the domestic violence, including that the violence is their fault, and/or that violence is an appropriate way to solve problems.
- Improve social and relationship skills so that children may access needed social supports in the future.
- Support and strengthen the relationship between children and their supportive parents.
- Increase supportive parents' understanding of the impact of domestic violence on their children, and ways to help.
- Increase the awareness of the impact of DV on children among other supportive adults in the children's natural environment so that they may support the family in positive change.

System Outcomes

- Increase the knowledge of domestic violence issues among children's mental health therapists.
- Increase the knowledge of children's mental health issues among children's domestic violence advocates.
- Increase collaboration between children's mental health therapists and children's domestic violence advocates.
- Reduce the prevalence of domestic violence in the community in the long-term.

Presently four staff members from Sound Mental Health, YWCA and DAWN are working on a program manual. They are using a strength based approach to build relationships and meet every other week to consult on cases. Presently they are testing a "Parent Checklist" and a "Parent & Child Strengths Questionnaire". They believe the information gained from the two forms will help gain parent input to decide if a child would benefit from counseling and, if so, what type of counseling would be most helpful. The goal is to have a supportive conversation with mom's and not subject them to a difficult intake process. At this time 12 families are being served from diverse cultures with children ages 3-12 years old. Interpreters are being provided with assistance from Asian Counseling and Referral Services (ACRS).

Announcements

Valley Cities Counseling and Consultation Auction

Lora asked the Board if they would consider donating to a wine barrel package for Valley City Counseling and Consultation Annual Auction at the Muckleshoot Casino on April 25, 2008. She will provide a large wine barrel and suggested the Board could help by bringing a bottle of wine or accessories to the April board meeting to help fill the wine barrel.

Compassion in Action

Denese had one ticket left for "Compassion in Action" (Seeds of Compassion) with the Dalai Lama on April 12, 2008. Several members voiced an interest so Denese will see if she can find more tickets.

Soroptimist Fundraising Event

Soroptimist International of Kent are hosting a Spring Fundraising Event to benefit Kent Domestic Violence Programs. The event will be on Wednesday, April 23, 2008 at 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Meridian Valley Country Club. The event will include a silent auction and fashion show with fashions from Coldwater Creek. Tickets are \$26 per person.

Trisha Blomquist is Getting Arrested!

Trisha Blomquist will be arrested on March 20, 2008 as part of a fundraiser for Muscular Dystrophy Summer Camp. Trisha will be handcuffed and locked up with the hope of raising enough "bail" money to send children to camp. The camp costs \$800 per child and Trisha's goal is to raise \$1600. She asked SKCCN Board members to pledge for this great event.

Board Nominations for 2008-09

Don asked for volunteers for a Nominating Committee to recruit nominees for Executive Committee officers for the 2008-09 term. Offices include Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. Don indicated he would be interested in continuing as Chair and Trisha is interested in continuing as Treasurer. Kim informed the Board that she cannot continue as Vice Chair and might need to resign from the Board the end of June. Lora reported that she would like to join the Executive Committee in the role of Vice Chair.

Margie Staulcup, Lora Dear and Trisha Blomquist volunteered to work on the Committee.

Children's Domestic Violence Conference

Dianne reported that plans for the Conference are going well. Each Board member who is attending was asked to arrive by 7:15 to pitch in with the registration process. As of Board meeting date 400 have registered and it will take a strong team to get everyone checked in and to their seats by 8:30. Dianne will arrive at 6:30 am and get everything prepped so she can orient SKCCN volunteers and have them ready for the 7:30 check-in to begin.

Since Don will not be able to attend, a volunteer was needed for to do morning welcome and introductions with Judge Joan DuBuque. Both Lora and Trisha volunteered. They were asked to "duke it out" during the break and then get back to Dianne with a final choice.

SKCCN Fundraising Raffle

Trisha reported that the Finance Committee is working on final plans for the Raffle to support the 501(c)(3). It is hoped that everything will be in place by the April 9 Board meeting. Trisha has donated a stay at the Towne & Country Suites Hotel with dinner at Merchants Café. Dianne is working on a donation from the Doubletree Suites in South Center and a dinner coupon someplace close. Jennifer and Margie are working on the donation of an LCD High Definition TV or something else large. Dianne has also purchased a large basket and will donate a DVD for the creation of a Family Fun Basket. Board members were asked to bring donations of DVD's, pop corn, candy, gift certificates to family friendly restaurants like Pizza Hut or Quiznoe's or KFC, games, gift certificates for rental movies from Blockbuster or Hollywood Video or other family fun items to include in the basket. The Board was asked to bring their donations to the April Board meeting if possible.

Safety and Accountability Update

Denese reported that the Team has held several meetings during the last month to build a clearer picture of how the Audit will work. Advocates, BIP's and survivors are working together to open lines of communication and overcome the issues discussed at the February Board meeting. Denese thanked Lora for being so open during the meeting by voicing her concerns. The Team has discussed the issues with the Praxis Team and have decided to slow the process down. During the next month the Team will work on written agreements that will make the goals and Audit operations more clear to everyone. As part of the process the Audit Team has asked that the SKCCN Board provide a clear statement of their expectations from the Audit. Denese indicated that the materials need to provide a clear message that the Audit is not about BIP's as a whole but about the children exposed and how to improve parenting.

Praxis folks will still be coming in the 7th, 8th and 9th of April to work with the Team on decisions about how to proceed. While in our area they will do some focus groups with BIP's, advocates and survivors PLUS work with the Team on the Audit process.

SKCCN as a Learning Community

Denese shared with the Board some of the things she learned from the book "Outlearning the Wolves: Surviving and Thriving in a Learning Organization". Collective Learning means that the group itself has acquired knowledge, skill, wherewithal, competence and facility. The organization itself contains all of this and if one person leaves the unit continues to maintain that knowledge. Plus it can bring new people into the system of collective learning.

Organizational learning allows the group to see issues from different points of view. The members of the group can ask: Are you seeing what I am? Am I seeing what you are? And when we are seeing things differently, how are we to understand the difference? What are you seeing that I'm not seeing? What am I seeing that you're not seeing? The process does not need to decide who is right or wrong using this method. This allows the group to see things from a larger perspective – objectively with understanding from many points of view. Each individual is then able to look at things from a collective vantage point without trying to decide who is right or wrong.

The Board took part in two exercises:

1. Tell the person next to you a time when you were able to learn a new knowledge or skill easily. Include what factors made it easier for you to learn.
2. Small groups discussed times when each felt completely aligned with a work team, when the energy was flowing and the group achieved spectacular results. What was it about that experience that allowed the flow to occur.

During a Board discussion following, Denese asked the Board to consider two questions:

What does the SKCCN already do well?

- React to controversy by opening dialogue
- Welcoming diversity to the Board
- Has good passion for the cause
- Clear communication with the community
- Staying true to our mission
- Honors every voice
- Able to raise issues constructively
- Goal oriented and working in teams

How could the SKCCN become a better learning organization?

- Continue to recognize that we are not all perfect
- Keep dialogue going / avoid assumptions
- Consciously check in with each other
- Create a report to the community
- Report to appointing authorities about our actions

Committee and Staff Reports

All reports were provided in writing.

Meeting adjourned – 6:50

Minutes Approved:

Signed

Date