



Connection Coalition Retreat

November 16, 2020 | 10:00am – 1:00pm

Conference Call via Zoom

Minutes

Participants:

Butcoff, Madison
Cohen, Jennifer
Comstock, Theresa
Cook, Cheyanne
Cunningham, Jennifer
Duerre, Mark
Gonzales, Rebecca
Grant, April
Hagar, Randall
Lowe, Sheree
McDaid-O'Neill, Trish
Offer, Danny
Oseguera, Elizabeth
Paullins, Curtis
Renfree, Thomas
Strother, Kelli
Strunk, Heidi
Sykes, Caren
Talley, Paige
Wall, Kit

1. Welcome, Introductions
2. Any additional agenda items? There were none.
3. Review and approval of October 12, 2020 meeting minutes
 - a. Combine 6f with 6c because they have the same subject matter
 - b. Moved: Theresa Comstock 2nd Tom Renfree
4. Discussion of survey results, implications for 2021
 - a. Randall Hagar: COVID knocked us off the game, cancelling the Legislative Day. Legislature was in session, then not, a lot of bills dropped. We likely will have another year of being in lockdown until 2022.
 - b. Trish McDaid-O'Neil: Continue pushing for meetings with legislators and educating them.
 - c. Randall Hagar: Broaden membership was a yes. Who?
 - i. Theresa Comstock: 2021 priorities might drive who might be invited. For example DOE if children are a priority. Danny Offer: Invite Brian Sap from DOE. What about CAYEN/TAY? Heidi Strunk: noted that their schedule doesn't really work for mid weekday meetings. Heidi Strunk: Gave a description of CAYEN, California Youth Empowerment Network
 - ii. Randall Hagar: An evening meeting occasionally for a special purpose, might be an option.

<http://www.mhac.org/connection-coalition/>

- iii. Kit Wall: Evening as needed, but not all the time. Include peer advocates on the list. MHSOAC, is also working on youth in education programs. Perhaps invite MHSOAC.
- iv. Randall Hagar: Have these folks attend as invited guests and perhaps that works into a membership.
- v. Caren Sykes: California Pharmacy Association, Michelle Rivas, VP Govt Affairs.
- vi. Theresa Comstock: CA Reducing Disparities Project
- vii. Danny Offer: Invite Street Medicine Team that presented to FMHAC and WTDs
- viii. Randall Hagar: Maggie at Steinberg Institute (SI) and Randall worked with the group recently.
 - 1. Caren Sykes Probably not interested in joining as regulars, but definitely worth inviting in. Their BOD has a lot of good people, Tom Insel, Kennedy Forum (KF) interns, etc.
 - 2. Randall Hagar: Has a meeting with SI/KF on early psychosis intervention, and will invite.
- ix. Kit Wall: UCSF, SF Citywide Forensics - UCSF, OT, Housing, Psych, Kathleen Lacey. Kathleen may present her proposal for the Jail facility that was not built.
- d. Reduce priorities list to workable list
 - i. Randall Hagar: would like to create a workgroup to draft the 2021 priorities.
 - 1. Priorities vs Values
 - a. Health inequities and racism, for example.
 - b. Access to Medication should be a priority
 - c. Tom Renfree: A couple priority items are very overarching, and more of a mission.
 - i. For example, getting to know the governor. Should be a given.
 - d. Heidi Strunk: Is it actionable? That would be a good test
 - e. Kit Wall: Values vs Priorities is a good
 - f. Caren Sykes Likes the idea of testing values as to actionable. The Words to Deeds presentation by the psychiatrist from Summit County, Ohio and Universal Intake Form. Dr. Smith said it was 18mos in the making, a judge ruled that it provided no encroachment of rights. Helped to assure patients access to medication, when moving to another facility.
 - 2. Randall Hagar: Would like to draft Tom Renfree, Kit Wall, Theresa Comstock, Caren Sykes for working group
 - a. Heidi Strunk: Draft a timeline and goal for draft
 - i. By Dec 14th meeting? Randall Hagar okay to convening WG this week.
 - ii. Add to agenda for possible approval.
 - b. 20th at 1:00pm
 - ii. Sponsor legislation, such as Universal Intake Form.
 - 1. Any reason we should not sponsor legislation
 - a. Heidi Strunk: Possible conflicts among member organizations
 - b. Rebecca Gonzales Not really a conflict, but also not a priority for NASW
 - c. Kit Wall: There might need to be an opt out feature
 - d. Randall Hagar: Addressing member organizations that may have concerns, support/oppose letters can be tailored to remove members who have a different position from the group vote.
 - e. Tom Renfree: Wondered about CBHDA participation and counties. Kit Wall: Sheriffs.
- e. Issue policy briefs on various aspects of access to care?

- i. Randall Hagar: Feels policy briefs are a valuable tool a step below sponsoring legislation. Theresa Comstock: Agrees, her organization developed cultural competence/disparities guides.
- ii. Heidi Strunk: Maybe take other organizations policy briefs and tailor them to ConnCo.
- iii. Randall Hagar: For example, talking with electeds early in the year and using Policy Brief's for those meetings.
- iv. Tom Renfree: Could be changes in the ACA via SCOTUS and the Biden administrations priorities. Pandemic has exacerbated MH issues nationwide.
- v. Randall Hagar: Grateful that CA took the essential benefits and enacted into law.
- vi. Tom Renfree: Select a newly elected legislator to join a ConnCo meeting?
- vii. Randall Hagar: Does anyone have a sense of the incoming legislators. Any with a stated interest in MH? Josh Newman would be a good person, although he isn't new.
 - 1. Rebecca Gonzales might have a document of the incoming legislators.
- viii. Kit Wall: Who will be the new Jim Beall?
- ix. Randall Hagar has a skype meeting to talk about caucuses. Susan Eggman, Scott Weiner (who had floated a proposal wanting to pass legislation making psilocybin therapy legal)
- x. Kelli Strother: Oregon created a framework for psilocybin therapy.
- xi. Tom Renfree: Tom Umberg? Worked at the Office of National Drug Control Policy in 1997.
- xii. Rebecca Gonzales Eggman doesn't always come through, but she is supportive of Social Workers.
- xiii. Randall Hagar: Asks group to continue thinking about this and bring forward any new ideas.

f. Comments

- i. All but one member organization was okay with speakers as a regular feature of meetings.
- ii. Caren Sykes suggested Stephanie Welch, Assistant CHHS Secretary for Behavioral Health, Kelly Pfeifer, Deputy Director, Department of Health Care Services
- iii. CCCBHA and CA Access Coalition
 - 1. Randall Hagar: Can we establish collaboration? Feels like both coalitions have different lanes, not incompatible, but could reach out.
 - a. Theresa Comstock and Trish McDaid-O'Neil agree.
 - 2. Rebecca Gonzales what is the difference. Randall Hagar: ConnCo is more grassroots than the Access Coalition.
 - 3. Caren Sykes: Le Ondra has brought new energy to the CAC. Sponsoring legislation. Would be helpful to open a communication line.
 - 4. Rebecca Gonzales Thinks there are almost too many MH coalitions.
 - 5. Heidi Strunk: Agrees and willing to work with CAC, there are synergies. Our time is valuable so yes, we need to find the overlap.
 - 6. Randall Hagar: Heidi Strunk & Randall Hagar to have a conversation with Le Ondra
 - a. Maybe sponsor a joint 'Welcome to MH' for legislators, history, themes.
 - b. Sooner rather than later. Maybe Randall Hagar, Heidi Strunk, will be able to have a call with LeOndra this week.

5. Formulation of 2021 Priorities

- a. Invite Steinberg Institute in December to discuss priorities.
- b. Theresa Comstock: Need to include equitable access for protected classes. Also for children/students.
- c. Paige Talley Would like to see something about racial inequity and youth, young adults.
 - i. Randall Hagar the trauma for these groups have been pervasive for years.
- d. Tom Renfree: Lingering impact of COVID only adds to that.
- e. Kit Wall: Should be able to tease out some values from survey discussion above.

- f. Heidi Strunk: Suggested telehealth, maintaining parity of access and reimbursement momentum, while monitoring federal activity.
 - i. Kelli Strother: American Psychiatric Association is drafting language for all 50 states.
- g. Kit Wall: Number 9 on the priorities list popped up with CCJBH and NACo (National Association of Counties)
 - i. Tom Renfree: Thought there was legislation regarding this. Likely stalled. CDCR trying to ramp up MAT for incarcerated. Problem is linkage to the community resources upon release and keeping access to medications.
 - ii. Kit Wall: Jim Beall talked about this issue at WTDs.
- h. Theresa Comstock: County boards always mention housing as an issue and including residential (board and cares) facilities and workforce.
 - i. Crisis Care Continuum
 - ii. Heidi Strunk: How do we tie housing more tightly to ConnCo?
 - iii. Kit Wall: Incompetent to stand trial population and housing. Mark Gale (NAMI Advocate in Los Angeles) referenced this in conversation, including rap around services, whole person care, housing first. How do we get the most difficult people housing and treatment and keep them compliant? AB1810 (criminal justice diversion) population in particular.
- i. Kelli Strother: Any appetite to bucket by topic, short term, long term, etc.
 - i. Randall Hagar: Noted discussion above and changing from a priorities to values statement and a policy platform.

6. 2021 Work Plan

- a. Joint event for Legislators (noted above)
 - b. Lobby Day would have to be virtual
 - i. Do's? Don'ts?
 - ii. Anyone have a virtual lobby day to draw on the experience
 - 1. Rebecca Gonzales Pre meeting brief and practice time needed.
 - 2. Training needed for lobbying
 - 3. Speakers needed who are MH Champions
 - 4. Contact with legislative members/staff well in advance.
 - iii. Paige Talley: agreed should be speakers, who are key legislators, have one person per subject.
 - 1. Heidi Strunk: CAYEN did legislative visits in breakout rooms virtually. Create a sheet with the various meetings and links for each. Virtual conferences need a very targeted approach.
 - 2. Kit Wall: suggested registering for breakouts in advance.
 - iv. Timing will be dictated by legislature schedule and COVID. Might need to be later in the year.
 - 1. Rebecca Gonzales NASW lobby day is April 12th.
 - 2. Tue/Wed?
 - 3. **April 19th is tentative date.**
 - a. **Morning Training 10-12 with Leg drop ins.**
 - b. **Leg Appts afternoon: 1:30 - ??**
 - 4. ConnCo members will invite board members
 - c. Identifying newly elected members of the legislature for outreach is an early task.
7. Coalition for Whole Health Update (written report)
8. Randall Hagar: Noted Amanda Levy left CPA and is with the state now. Invite Amanda to December meeting.