

Fairview Families and Friends, Inc.
Minutes of the General Membership Meeting
July 13, 2014

Ray Ceragioli welcomed those at the gathering. He also announced that the next meeting is September 14, and that the Fall Festival and fund raiser is November 16. This benefits the clients. He also reported that our Newsletter is distributed all over the State, including to legislators. He encouraged everyone to join and support FFF.

Ray also reported that Secretary Dooley called a Task Force last year and that she has called another one. The Task Force recommended that funds be restored to the budget of the State Council. That request was denied and she has again recommended restoration.

It was reported that a client of Fairview, Brent Snyder, has died and the family has requested that any donations made in his honor be donated to FFF for use for the client.

The first speaker, Cheryl Bright, our new Executive Director, was introduced. She gave her background and reported that her interest in the disabled was fostered by her mother, who worked at a hospital for the disabled in New York. Her mother was the inspiration for her to provide a quality of life for the disabled. She stressed that those who work at Fairview are dedicated and she introduced a few of them present.

Ms. Bright discussed HOP hearings and the fact that DDS has not decided how to proceed. She indicated that family members will have to insist on HOP hearings. Ray explained HOP hearings to the audience, and the fact that Southern California has them and Northern California does not. He also reported that a Judge in LA Superior Court has insisted on HOP hearings under the Lanterman ruling. Every individual must have this procedure. He also explained his son's case. Cheryl and Ray will keep bringing this matter to DDS.

Harbor Regional Center has sponsored HOPE homes, which are non-profit. There was a spirited discussion regarding Regional Center's tactics. The Federal Disability Act controls money that California receives.

Terry DeBell, who attended the VOR convention in Washington D.C. and reported that California is much better protected than other states because of the Lanterman Act. AARP wants background checks on employees. Protection and Advocacy requested legislation to support Representative Schiff who defines the Olmstead Act which supports the appropriateness of Development Centers.

Lex expressed the need of members to contact legislators regarding the appropriateness of DCs. Employees must be properly qualified. Care providers in San Diego will get less money than MacDonald workers. She urged members to write letter this matter.

Bob Hazard also attended the VOR convention. He stated that he represents CASH/PCR and was the former president of the family group at Lanterman. He indicated that he is pro-institution and choice. He indicated that the best care is provided by the DCs. He spoke of the DC population and of their severe disability and profound problems. He stressed the need for national background checks of employees. He urged letter to DOJ expressing client's family members' viewpoints and how our viewpoints and perspectives are different.

Terry discussed the work of the Task Force and her participation. Ray discussed Harbor Regional Center and the problems they must address.

The meeting was adjourned.

Carol Ceragioli, Recording Secretary

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Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting
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President Ray Ceragioli opened the meeting and a quorum was established. The minutes of the May 4 meeting were approved as written.

The Treasurer's report was given by Carolyn Davis. She advised that a mistake was made in the January report but that she had corrected the balance. She also reported that the bank balance is diminishing and that we may need to transfer funds from the savings account in the future. The report was approved.

Committee Reports:

IPP: Joe Preston indicated that he has advised several parents to file for a fair hearing, but they are not doing so. Ray suggested that Joe advise parents to go see homes recommended by Regional Centers to show good faith, but to ask questions. We need to determine why DDS hasn't resolved problems with the HOP hearings. Ray questions the non-action of DDS. There is a need to increase admittances to Fairview. The Regional Centers and Public Defenders are determined to close the DCs. The Regional Centers should provide a Fair Hearing form to any family member.

Membership: Lex reported for Maria who was absent. Carolyn said there have been 14 memberships reported since May. The total is unknown, but Maria is to provide the number.

VOR: Good reports on the convention were provided by Terry, Lex and Bob Hazard. Other states do not have good services and have greater problems than California because we have the Lanterman Act. Lex thanked FFF for sending them to Washington D.C. and they were able to help other state representatives.

Ray reported that the federal representatives are withholding all funds to the State Council because they don't agree with the State set up. They don't like the Area Boards. Ray said that the needs of many minority communities are not being met. The autistic community needs help too, and that crisis centers must be increased.

CASH/PCR: Terry reported that the task force is meeting again and that several CASH members are included. CASH has budget problems regarding transportation costs to Sacramento. The Lanterman family group has money in their treasury and they will continue to operate.

Fall Festival: Jim Proulx is offering his assistance and is requesting a letter to prospective donors and a list of prizes to print of the tickets. Lex discussed the suggested prizes. It was agreed that a \$500 cash prize be offered, two \$50 cash prizes, two \$50 gift cards to Target and Walmart, one to IHop, a \$50 gas card, a handmade quilt or other quilted item and an emergency radio. We will ask Andi and Sheila to provide the orchids as table decorations and prizes. Mike discussed the food selections.

Ray discussed HOP hearings. Mike and Joe questioned the need for these hearings. Some legislators don't recognize HOP. There are now commitment hearings. Ray discussed the matter that the Court has no power to determine placements.

Lex reported that she has a new list of attorneys who can represent clients.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Carol Ceragioli, Recording Secretary