

Lake County Mental Health Taskforce Meeting of November 18, 2013

Attending were: Karen Saari from Waterfront Center, Wendi Ellison, Lisa Schreyer, Dolly Wood advocate, Laure Nechanicky, Faith Clark, Dean Grace, Jason Grey from Lake County Human Services, Billi Spencer, and Laura Olson and Steve Wagner from HDT.

Meeting was called to order Jennifer Havsick was not present so the previous minutes were not available. Per our new by-laws elections must be held every December. Dolly Wood motioned and Karen Saari seconded the motion to elect Jennifer Havsick as secretary. A unanimous vote elected Jennifer as secretary. Laura Nechanicky made a motion for Billi Spencer to become the new chair, Karen Saari seconded the motion passed unanimously. Billi Spencer made the motion for Lisa Schreyer to be co-chair, Laura Nechanicky seconded also passed unanimously.

Much discussion was made concerning when and where and how often we should meet. Billi made a motion to have the meeting be every second Monday of the month at 9:30 a.m. Lisa seconded the motion, vote unanimously past. Much discussion was also made concerning where our meetings should be. The final decision was tabled to our next meeting leaving the discussion open for possibly some of those meetings to be in Silver Bay.

Dean Grace passed around a report (the results of a survey) on both the academic and mental health issues facing our children right now. This report can be accessed on the internet at www.health.state.mn.us/div/chs/mss/regional/tables/northeast10.pdf. We also began discussions concerning the childrens mental health fair. Will discuss this more at next meeting.

An update on the new housing being built in Duluth to replace Bridge House. It is a rule 36 facility with 12 beds, in partnership with the city of Duluth they are hoping to open in July of 2014

There will be a speaker at Barkers Island on April 24th. Dr Henry emmens is the speaker.

The same Children remain at risk—often they are at risk for more than one problem. As we make efforts to improve the physical health of our children though we do see a marked improvement across the board in the lowering of other risk factors. Educating people what a healthy child looks like seems to be the first step.

Young families are the back bone of our community finding ways to get services as early as possible to young families is important. Just changing one thing can produce quite an impact on reducing all the risk factors a child faces.

Billi made a motion to adjourn, Karen seconded meeting adjourned at 11.

Thank-you all for coming! Next meeting is Monday January 13th, 2014 at 9:30am.