

Forensic Mental Health Association of California

Minutes
Business Meeting March 19, 2009

Embassy Suites, Seaside, CA

Opening:

- The regular meeting of the FMHAC was called to order at 5:23 on March 19, 2009 in Seaside, Monterey by Ken Carabello.

Present:

- Molly Willenbring, Ken Carabello, Mark Grabaugh, Carrie Gustafson, David Polak, Jennifer Rossi

A. Approval of Agenda

- The agenda was unanimously approved as distributed.

B. Approval of Minutes

- The minutes of the business meeting, March 2008, were unanimously approved as distributed.

C. Report from the President- Ken Carabello

Education:

- Priority placed on this conference for provision of continuing education
- Exploring ways of finding new revenue sources and expanding our attendee base
- Improving advertising
- Sponsoring additional training opportunities throughout the year
- Going onsite to different locations; single day conference; licensure courses sponsored by FMHAC but with special relevancy to the forensic setting
- From the Floor:
 1. Provide specific training at the conference for different organizations.
 2. Utilize smaller relationship commitments for free training as a means to see if there is a dedicated interest in coming to a longer conference.

Health Committee:

- Health committee is disbanding which provides an opportunity to create a different committee to address other relevant issues, such as an IST committee.
- From the floor:

Many attendees in agreement

One mentioned LA county's MIST program

Communications:

- E-news letter
- Formation of partnerships with COMIO, FMH Coordinators (it was recently decided that FMH Coordinators would go into "hibernation"), reached out to DMH, CDCR, chief probation officers, CMH directors (though a request to attend their forensic meeting was denied), treatment community for clients with developmental disabilities (which also cross references IST issues),
- Coordinating schedules of the various organizations to encourage cohesiveness, thus allowing people to attend all (ie: COMIO, CIT, ConRep etc)

D. Report from the Treasurer- Carrie Gustafson

- Fiscal year ending June 30, 2008
- Revenue of 171 thousand
- Highest attendance at 2008 conference, however, cost of the conference was higher
- Increased fund balance by 20 thousand, but did not invest that money in the stock market
- At the close of the fiscal year, assets totaled at 350 thousand
- 2009 conference attendance is down, but higher number of students
- Copies of fiscal statements are available to the members upon request.
- From the floor:

Students and POST: take some of the classes and work towards getting college credits for those students. Connect with the colleges to see if the students can get credit for attending. Offer a certificate for the students to add to their resume. Officer Sabido willing to be a liaison for Saybrook. Provide an avenue for a distinguished dissertation to present at the conference.

E. Report from the VP-Mark Grabau

Public Policy:

- Fiscal constraints of the state are dominating Public policy issues
- Needs closure: a final determination on Jessica's Law- still awaiting notification
- Need to craft a response to a Prop 1E to use MHSA funds to shore up state budget. CMH directors withdrew their position about two weeks ago.
- Taking a look at how we want to take a look at the court receivers activities and the fiscal resources of the state, what can be done and how can we balance those resources. Need for adequate care and what is possible in the state, fiscally. political heat on the receiver, he began to bail on the mental health stuff. Uphold patient care while being sensitive to our economic landscape.
- Cal CASA: An organization of rape crisis centers throughout the state that approached FMHAC to support the renewal of sex offender management bill

D. Director of Education-Dave Polak

- Landscape of conference has changed. Disbanding of Health committee, CME credits (turned out to be a very expensive and cumbersome process and may not be beneficial to the organization- will the benefits outweigh the costs?)
- Continue outreach to law enforcement, parole, probation, and corrections as well as increase appeal of conference to additional disciplines such as attorneys.

E. Director of conference-Munir Sewani

- Works directly with the planning committee in selecting call for papers.

F. Executive Director-Molly Willenbring

- Developing more benefits for membership such as a member's section on the website.

- Working on grants

G. Elections:

Nominations for Board Vacancies:

- President Elect: Mark Grabau Unanimous votes: yes None opposed
- VP: Dave Meyer Unanimous votes: yes None opposed
- Treasurer: Ron Kaufman Unanimous votes: yes None opposed
- Vote by acclimation

H. Miscellaneous comments from the Floor:

- Hold the conference in mid-state to increase access for mid-state Santa Barbara, SLO. Concerned about the carbon footprint
- Possibility of alternating conferences between north and south.
- Marketing and advertising
- Carpooling contacts on the website
- Facebook, Twitter, Linked-In

I. Summary:

- Content with the progress we have made and we look forward to increasing marketing and advertising

Adjournment:

- Meeting was adjourned at 6:35 by Ken Carabello on March 19, 2009 in Embassy Suites, Monterey CA.

Minutes submitted by:

Jennifer Rossi