

Monday, January 22, 2024



**CONSUMER AND FAMILY ADVISORY COMMITTEE - REGULAR MEETING
Mecklenburg County**

5200 W. Paramount Parkway, Morrisville, NC 27560

5:30-7:00 p.m.

MINUTES

APPOINTED MEMBERS PRESENT: ☒ Ron Clark-In person ☒ Linda Campbell-In person ☒ Ruth Reynolds-In person ☒ Randy Sperling-In Person ☒ Beverly Corpening-Virtual ☐ Shagun Gaur ☒ Melida Baldera-Virtual ☒ Alan McDonald-In person ☒ Lois Stickell-In person ☒ Jim Sonda-In person and his support dog Cinder ☒ Kathy Dozier-Virtual

GUEST(S): ☒ Jennifer Meade, Assistant Director as Advocacy and Empowerment NCDHHS-in person ☒ Stacey Howard, NCDHHS-Virtual ☒ Matt Diedrich, Oxford House-Virtual ☒ Amanda McGurt, Oxford House-Virtual ☒ Mary Johnson, family member ☒ Marie Dodson, Johnson County CFAC/Steering Committee Chair-Virtual

STAFF PRESENT: ☒ Aimee Izawa, Director Community & Member Engagement-virtual ☐ Lakeisha McCormick, Manager, Member Inclusion and Outreach-In person ☒ Eileen Bennett Member Inclusion and Outreach Specialist-In person

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/99829069054>

- 1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS** – the meeting was called to order by Linda Campbell at 7:03pm
- 2. REVIEW OF THE MINUTES** – The minutes from the November 27, 2023, meeting were reviewed; a motion was made by Alan McDonald and seconded by Ruth Reynolds to approve the minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEMS:	DISCUSSION:	NEXT STEPS:	TIME FRAME:
3. State Updates-5 mins	Jennifer Meade introduced her herself as Assistant Director as Advocacy and Empowerment. She gave a brief description of her position for the group. Jennifer noted that she had visited last year and remembers all the friendly faces. She wanted to ensure that she visited our CFAC and other CFACs around the state and touch base and answer questions and concerns and if you need anything that you are welcome to contact her. She also introduced Stacy Harward who provided-a brief update from the state. Ron asked Jennifer some questions surrounding Peer Supports and what the state provides. Jennifer noted that she manages the contract for certification of Peer Support Specialists, trainings, and curriculum. Linda asked a question about training for Direct Support Providers. Jennifer noted that Ginger Yarbrough would be the correct contact for that information. Stacey noted that the next State to Local meeting is this Weds from 6-7:30 pm and the State is February 14 th at Alliance Health in Morrisville, NC. Alan asked about our RUN flyer and		

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	Jennifer noted that she would follow up on status. Linda asked a question with regard to peer support and the deaf community if there were ASL accommodations. Jennifer did not know if Peer Support Classes had an ASL accommodations but noted she would follow up on that.		
4. Public Comment	Randy offered her goodbyes and offered some recommendations and thoughts on the CFAC Board and the relationship with CFAC and Alliance and how to proceed going forward. Marie Dodson gave some information about the One Recovery Conference if anyone is interested. She noted that Alliance allows 2 spots per CFAC to go conferences. Marie also noted that she sent out some information regarding the 122 C statute which relates to CFAC. Marie noted that the statute itself has been around for quite some time and the language included in is antiquated in and needs to be changed. She noted that she was hoping for some comments and suggestions about the language. Marie also noted that it is very difficult to attain the Budget for CFAC from Alliance. She noted that right now it's unclear what the CFAC budget is and that she feels concerned that we don't know. She feels like our budget should be increased based off the new counties we have required. She noted that other LME/MCO's have line-item budgets that they work with. Marie also noted that we need to fix our by-laws and Relational agreement as well. Marie also brought up that we only have one seat on the Board of Directors and feels that with the addition of the counties we may need to have more. Marie spoke briefly about the Human Rights Committee. She noted that Mecklenburg County has a higher than usual level 2-3 incident report for the quarter. Marie said that the Human Rights Committee had concerns with this as the percentages for all counties should be close. Marie also noted that the next State CFAC meeting will be at Alliance and encouraged everyone to go. Ron noted that there are many conferences and why are we not hearing about them. Eileen noted that Mecklenburg has 1 spot left for Conferences since Shagun went to the i2i Conference in the Fall. Aimee noted that we are happy to sponsor anyone who would be willing to go to conferences. Lois asked some follow up questions regarding the 2-conference policy. Alan requested a list of the conferences for the year so that the members can submit their interest. Lakeisha noted that we will submit a list for the members to review of the conferences. Marie noted that there are many conferences listed on the state Monthly Newsletter. Lakeisha requested that the guests to our meeting introduced themselves. Matt Diedrich and Amanda McGurt introduced themselves. Both work with the Oxford Houses in Mecklenburg		

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	County. Matt described the Oxford House for the CFAC members. Mary Johnson also introduced herself as a family member of one of our members.		
5. LME/MCO Updates	Lakeisha noted that Harnett County will transition to Alliance on February 1, 2024. There will be a town hall on January 31, 2024, in Harnett County; it is a hybrid option, from 5:30-6:30 and the flyer was sent out. The Town Hall is open to the community. She also noted that February 3 is the Legislative Breakfast. Aimee requested that Lakeisha speak to the partnership with North Carolina Council of Developmental Disabilities to roll out a screening of the "UNMET." It is for the Spanish Speaking community, and they are solidifying the location and there will be a flyer created and sent out. She noted that she hoped that they could spread awareness of the event. There were some questions about the movie itself. Aimee gave a brief description of what the movie is focused on and the overall story. Aimee encouraged everyone to see it and come to the event if you could. Lakeisha noted the movie will be in Spanish and she noted she will find out if English speaking members would be able to attend as well. Jim noted that the best way to get the word out with the Spanish Community may be through the Faith Community. Lakeisha noted that Gladys Blakeman our MIOS that is Spanish Speaking and has connections to the Spanish Community and the Spanish Faith Community that we will make all efforts to spread the word.		
6. Election	Elections were held and the members voted via ballot and online ballot for their candidate. For the 2024/2025 Mecklenburg CFAC Linda Campbell will be the Chair and Alan McDonald will be the Co-chair.		
7. Reports	Lois provided an overview of the steering committee. She noted that Sara Wilson gave an overview of Medicaid Expansion and described the new enrollment numbers. Lois also noted that raises for direct support and how they would be receiving that money and that the increase would happen in February 1, 2024. They are not flat raises. Jennifer Meade noted that she doesn't have a lot more information about it. Both Lois and Linda described how their providers were handling the raises for their employees. Lois noted that the providers had to sign an attestation that the majority of the money for salary increase would be mostly given to the employees, but Lois noted that the attestation form is completed. Lois noted that the increase is supposed to be retroactive, but they have not heard how that will be administered or if that is required. Lois asked some questions with Appendix K-		

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	Alan noted that it is set to expire in February. Jim asked Alan some questions about Appendix K extensions and if it expires. Linda noted that parents will not be able to provide services going forward after the Appendix K expiration. Aimee noted that she received an Appendix K guidance document and she noted that she would send to Eileen, and she can send it out to the group for explanations. Alan attended the Side by Side, and he noted the topic was on Direct Support Providers (DSP). The state has a three-year plan to improve the support for the DSP. Alan noted there were some DSPs in the meeting and they described what was meaningful for them in how they administer care. He noted that the DSP's noted they needed to have a platform where the DSP's can collaborate as well as offer resources and structure to the DSP. Alan noted that all the DSP's requested there be "in the field" training for them as they felt that would help them administer better care. Alan noted there is a 3-year plan by the state to provide more support.		
8. Statutory Requirements and Recommendations	Linda noted that she would like to have a speaker to the Mecklenburg CFAC that is part of the deaf community. Jim and Alan asked some questions regarding the speaker. Lois asked Lakeisha/Eileen how many members in the deaf community are in fact Alliance Members. Linda also noted that she was considering transportation and housing speakers as well. Eileen noted that the strategic goals and how their speakers need to be surrounding those goals.		
9. Adjournment			

10. **ADJOURNMENT:** the meeting adjourned at 7:08 pm; the next meeting will be February 26, 2024, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.