

Friends of Rainier Meeting Minutes - 1-21-17

PRESIDENT'S REPORT - President Jeff Carter introduced the board members and then Harvey Perez.

SUPERINTENDANT HARVEY PEREZ UPDATE -

- PROGRAM UPDATE
 - Pat C - was out of compliance with federal rules, but is now back in compliance and will have their annual survey certification by March 2017.
 - Pat E - is currently not allowed new admissions, due to being out of compliance and must make corrections by early fall. Harvey hopes to be back in compliance much sooner. This has complicated Rainier's ability to handle respite cases, since Chelan house is the place where emergency respite clients are generally located. As a result, they are having to say no to new clients.
 - Pat A - is currently in compliance. They are working to correct any outstanding citations.
- STAFF VACANCIES
 - Nursing - LPN vacancies have dropped from 40% (summer 2016) to 16%. There are no RN vacancies. They were able to get them a bump in pay which has helped in filling the vacancies
 - Attendant Counselors - There are still 46 vacancies and more vacancies in the temporary positions. Harvey will be trying to get a bump in pay to help. The immediate situation is being handled with voluntary overtime first, then mandatory overtime.
- LEADERSHIP
 - Pat C Director - Kate Larson
 - Pat E Director - Derick Sleight
 - Pat A Director - John Goldade
 - Professional Support Services Director - Pat Bockelman (responsible for Information Services, Staff Development, Safety Office, Beauty Shop, Mail Room and the Intermittent Pool).
 - Medical Director - John Tedeschi (beginning in late February or March). He can be seen on YouTube.
- OTHER
 - Heat problem - some cottages/certain rooms have been having problems with lack of heat, so immediate measures have been taken to fix the problems. They are now having daily temperature checks to ensure that they are staying within compliance (68-80 degrees). The issue was discovered by audit surveyors and Harvey is hoping that in the future, staff will give him information about problems so that they can be dealt with quickly, as he was unaware of the scope of the problem (he only knew about one room). Harvey is hoping to get more funding for ongoing maintenance.
 - L&I Fine - due to the 'near' drowning of a client at Alder Lake this last summer. New policies for water safety will include - swimming will only be done in pools with lifeguards; when clients are taken to a lake for fishing, etc. then both the clients and staff will wear life jackets; lakes will be narrowed down to those with railings on their docks. Rainier will be purchasing commercial grade life jackets.
 - Internet for clients - Wifi has been set up in the Chapel. Before Wifi can be expanded, a set of rules/guidelines/protocols need to be set up for what content can be accessed, etc.
 - Chapel Sound System - has been upgraded.
 - 20 Year Master Plan - A 20 year plan to maximize the use of Rainier's campus is in the works. The state Legislature has hired consultants to look at the issue. There will be a community forum that we will be invited to where the findings will be shared and architects will answer questions. Prior to the public forum, there will be an employee forum in February. A staff member will be developing a pamphlet with concise information that highlights potential other uses for the campus (such as senior housing) as well as cost savings ideas (such as building consolidation to save on heat, etc.).

- o Staff Wellness Center – an area (that will open in February) has been created for employees to take their breaks and lunches. It will include a work out area, quiet/library area, Wi-Fi, massage chairs, bulletin board and dorm rooms for napping.
- o Hiring - The leadership is working on how they can promote employment to the younger generation. Ideas such as employee apartments and vanpooling through Pierce County Transit were brought up.
- o Sexual Assault Case – Nothing has come up yet to indicate other past occurrences by the individual involved in the case.

ACTION DD LEGISLATIVE RECEPTION – February 7 from 10 am to 2:00 pm (Action DD business meeting from 9 -10 am) on the lower level of the Pritchard Building in the Washington Room in Olympia. The WFSE union will provide lunch and Terry Anderson from VOR and some people from Fircrest are putting together a 1 page, succinct handout to inform legislators of our pro-RHC point of view. The event is informal, but often legislators will get up in front and make a statement. Be sure to contact your state legislators and invite them.

NEWS TIDBITS FROM THE POLITICAL ARENA

- Jim Hardman said that a deal was made with the union to keep Fircrest/Rainier open as long as we don't use "centers of excellence" phraseology. Some suggested alternate phrases are "Resource for the Community" and "Professional Services".
- The closing of Francis Hadden Morgan did not increase money to community care.
- A person from Fircrest has made some inroads with ARC.
- Action DD is pushing for surprise inspections in community DD facilities.
- Kathy Fry, who has been the manager of the respite house at Rainier and has worked in the industry for 36 years, may get a chance to go to Olympia to tell them what she has seen in regards to community placement.
- Jan Gee asked the governor's staff about possible RHC closures, and they said that there are no plans for closure at this time and they also commented that Fircrest has the highest maintenance cost.
- PC2 would like more people from FOR/Rainier to participate in their organization
- Diane Rosenberg (a newly retired 40 year Rainier employee) said she will continue to be a very active DD advocate as part of the Pierce County Labor Council Retirees Union.

ACTION DD FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN – We have raised \$18K so far. The lobbyist has been paid through this session. We are still encouraging everyone to give and also encourage everyone to contact their family/siblings about giving since it is critical that we continue to support our pro-RHC lobbyist.

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL REPRESENTATION – Volunteers are still needed. The group meets on Mondays in the administrative conference room (in Rainier's front office). Training is involved and a conference call option is being considered as well as rotation, so that you would only need to come once per month, instead of weekly.

ORGANIZATIONAL ACTIONS IN PROCESS

- Constant Contact – our email distribution list has been moved to Constant Contact for \$22/month. It gives us better tools for mass e-mailings. Be looking for frequent e-mail updates.
- Events Calendar – The 2nd annual Fashion Show will be on April 22. Check the FOR website for other events
- Mailing List Management – Kathy and Lynette are working on updating our contact lists in Access.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES:

- Our next membership meeting will be Sunday, March 19, 2017 @ 11:30 am in the Bill Leonard Room
- Meetings for the rest of the year – Saturday, May 20 / July (no meeting – but picnic is Sunday, July 16) / Saturday, September 16 / Sunday, November 19

Our website - www.friendsofrainier.org

\$48 was raised from the raffle.