

Friends of Rainier Meeting Minutes - 3-19-17

PRESIDENT'S REPORT - Jeff Carter introduced the board members, Bob Gee's sister Debbie and then Jeff Flesner

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDANT JEFF FLESNER UPDATE -

- HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE REPRESENTATION
 - This committee is required by regulation and is supposed to have members from the community, Rainier staff and guardians. If staff feel there is a need for a more restrictive or other big change to an individual client's IHP, then the request goes to the Human Rights Committee prior to the request reaching the administration
 - Right now there are 3 from the community, 3 staff and 1 guardian/staff - more guardians are needed
 - Ways of making the meetings more accessible to volunteers' schedules were discussed such as using WebX or GoToMeeting to virtually present documents, virtual meetings and rotating meetings to different days of the week besides Monday
- PROGRAM UPDATE
 - Pat C - Did not pass their annual survey certification in March, largely due to two issues - 1) lack of active treatment and 2) clients being traumatized by a particular client's behavior
 - Pat A - Fully functional, but is still in need of further active treatment and is working to develop that
 - Pat E - Still under an 11 month plan of correction. No new clients will be allowed until the denial of payment is lifted. They are hoping to have CMS back out to re-evaluate earlier (Apr/May) than the deadline (Sep/Oct)
- FASHION SHOW - Sat. April 22 at 3:00 pm (we have the DSHS video of last year's fashion show on our website)
- MAINTENANCE WAREHOUSE
 - Jeff introduced Scott Ward the Plant Manager at Rainier (who will be later giving his own update)
 - The Dept. of Labor and Industries shut down the maintenance warehouse due to the possibility of asbestos being present in the vermiculite. \$130K and much time and effort was spent to remediate all of it, put on a new roof, clean everything off and then retest the vermiculite and the air quality
- WORM PROGRAM
 - A professor and students at City University are taking on the marketing of our worm related sales as a student project. They are helping with pricing, marketing on the internet and more. The professor has contacts in the media and would like to get the project national attention
 - We have already received some orders
- 20 YEAR MASTER PLAN
 - Today at 1:30 pm in the chapel, there will be a community forum meeting for the DSHS 20 year plan to maximize the use of Rainier's campus
 - Consultant findings will be shared and architects will answer questions
- RECENT DEATH OF AN EMPLOYEE AT RAINIER
 - A client is being investigated for their possible involvement in an employee's death. She (along with a second client) was causing trouble (not for the first time) from 12 am to 4 am. They left campus and she later began to throw things and hit people. The staff member was hit with a heavy water bottle in the back before he was able to control the client with a seat hold. He left Rainier at the end of his shift and then went to the emergency room later in the evening due to not feeling well and then later died. It is still not known if the incident was in any way a contributing factor or cause of his death
 - The client was taken to Good Samaritan Hospital for a mental evaluation. She was subsequently arrested again for another incident in which she broke a staff's arm by twisting it. She has been deemed not competent to stand trial and has been sent to Pierce County jail. She has been discharged from Rainier and will not be returning
- STAFFING ISSUES

- o Rainier School is certified for 450 beds (we are currently at 309) and can go up to 350 without a problem, but understaffing is continuing to be a problem
- o In the past year, 165 people have been hired and 160 have left
- o They are working on possible shuttles and/or mass transit vans coming from places like Bonney Lake as well as a reinstatement of a bus stop
- o The minimum wage earned by new staff has been raised in order to be more competitive in the job market, but that has also created a morale issue since others that were earlier hired at a lower rate are not receiving a matching wage adjustment. There has also not been a cost of living raise for a few years
- o Staff are also concerned about their physical wellbeing, since there is an increase in the level of violent clients. The administration is trying to get more training for staff regarding clients with the dual diagnosis of developmental disabilities and mental health issues
- o The Staff Wellness Center was also opened as a place where staff can retreat and re-energize
- o They are also working on partnering with colleges and are already working with Green River CC
- QUESTIONS ABOUT ACRONYMS
 - o "PAT" stands for Program Area Team and is how the 4 RHCs are divided into subunits. Rainier currently has 3 pats (A, C & E)
 - o "ICF" stands for Intermediate Care Facility. Rainier is the only straight ICF. The other 3 have some nursing home status also

PLANT MANAGER SCOTT WARD UPDATE -

- STAFFING - He currently has 72 staff (it was only 63) and will be able to keep them for the next 18 months
- CURRENT/FUTURE REPAIRS AND UPGRADES
 - o The bowling alley is now being used 3-4 days per week. We will be obtaining parts/equipment from the Western State bowling alley that is being removed
 - o They have been working hard to improve the curb appeal at Rainier School. Any items hanging from the shepherds hooks at the entrance (wreaths, birdhouses, flower pots, etc) are all available for purchase
 - o They have also been painting the insides of the cottages
 - o The gym will receive a new roof at the end of April (underneath replaced - tiles will be reused)
 - o They are also working on parking lot enhancement, including more ADA parking
 - o They have been cleaning venting and repairing the heating in the cottages
 - o They will be replacing siding and painting the outside of the houses, trimming trees and cleaning gutters
 - o They are working on providing internet throughout the campus. The largest obstacle is that the fiber optics are old and need to be upgraded. It is currently available in the chapel, along with a Sorenson machine (similar to skype) for hearing impaired clients

ACTION DD -

- LEGISLATIVE RECEPTION - Held on Feb. 7. Good turnout and Senator King spoke some encouraging words
- LEGISLATIVE CONCERNS
 - o SB5646 (the YVS bill) - lobbyist Rick Jensen is optimistic regarding It is up for executive action on 3/20
 - o Substitute SB5594 (anti-RHC, closing Fircrest, etc. bill) - Rick is hopeful it will not pass
- LOBBYIST - Enough money has been raised to keep Rick funded through the current legislative session. Someone brought up the question of whether Rick could supply FOR with a more formal report
- NEWSLETTERS? - Action DD currently only sends out e-mails. There is no formal newsletter. They are also working on their contact list

KEITH KEMPER LAW FIRM -

- DRW LAWSUIT

- o FOR recently paid him \$1,800 to research the DRW lawsuit and its possible impact on RHCs. It should be noted that he charges us a discounted rate of \$220/hour instead of his usual \$380/hour
- o The lawsuit has 91 people as plaintiffs (no one knows who they are). DRW has to prove to the state that it is a certified class of people
- FUTURE - We will keep him on retainer (without having to pay a retainer)

OTHER

- MEMBERSHIP DRIVE - Our FOR May newsletter will be a hardcopy sent through the mail and will include the annual membership dues drive. We will also put our FOR fundraising on the front page of the website and move the Action DD fundraising information to the advocacy section
- MAILING LIST MANAGEMENT - Kathy, Jeff and Lynette are working on updating our database and storing it in the cloud so that it does not get lost. We will try to get a new list from Rainier's administrative staff
- GRANT OPPORTUNITY - Kate Dean's husband may have a grant opportunity through his work. Jeff thinks Katia would be the best contact for what the grant money should be allotted to
- TREASURER'S REPORT - Kathy has to file a 990 because of the donation to the lobbyist. It is due May 15th, so she plans on getting a 6 month extension. Jan Gee offered to have her assistant train Kathy on how to do it

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES:

- The 2nd annual Fashion Show will be on April 22
- July 16th will be the Picnic
- 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

\$79 was raised from the raffle