

Friends of Rainier Meeting Minutes - 3-20-16

Jeff introduced the FOR board members - Jeff Carter, Kris Brott, Kathy Craig, Jim Hardman, James & Rhonda Meyers and Lynette Stevenson.

The Suzannah Frame reporting series was discussed, including the fact that she was given an award from ARC. Jeff reported that FOR has currently donated \$2,500 to the FOF made promotional video and that we may give more in the future. He then showed the video (which was very well done - thanks to everyone who put it together!). Jim Hardman made the point that it is nice for what it does, but since legislators are often interested in the financial aspects, it may be good to make a second video that focuses on the financial/legal issues involved in DD care. The tricky part is to gather accurate information regarding costs in a community setting, since many of the costs such as emergency services by police, firemen, hospitals, etc. are not funded directly under DSHS and are harder to quantify.

Teresa Dean reported on her MBA research project involving the comparison of costs (and quality) of community care versus costs of RHC care.

The four recommended steps for pursuing further research are -

1. Have 1) a committee chair and 2) board members in charge of the research
2. Have a systematic literature review, which would cost approximately \$10K and take 3-12 months to do. This is the starting place for a research study, so that you can access the currently published data and where there are gaps and biases in the data and also inaccurate data. For example, if you review 100 studies, it might show that 80 of those studies are biased towards community only options.
3. Conduct a research study. There are 5 levels of study, but it may be that a case study would be more suited to our needs than a double blind study which is level 5. In a case study, families/guardians could share their personal experiences, both positive and negative within the RHC and community settings
4. Finances - FOR/FOF have limited funding, so other resources would be needed such as encouraging donations on our website that are earmarked specifically for research or contacting people/organizations that may be interested in helping to fund such a project (Teresa's friend gave her the phone number of a multi-millionaire person who may be interested in contributing).

The first step will be to present the information in detail to Jeff Carter and then at some point in the future, look into who can lead the project, who can be in charge of research and who we can hire to do a systematic literature review.

The Meyers reported on the status of the FOR website. They added a Guardianship tab and are looking for recommendations for more lawyers that can be added to the list as resources who are familiar with guardianship issues. They encouraged anyone who had a recommendation to e-mail them with the information. They are also looking for someone to take new photos of the various areas of amenities at Rainier. They reported that they went to Yakima Valley School to help them build a website. This will help with the larger goal of having better organization amongst all the RHCs and other groups such as Action DD, etc. The website will include the newsletters (which are being worked on by Kate & Brian) as well as the FOR meeting minutes.

Jim Hardman reported on the effort to re-open admission to Yakima Valley. An effort to make 12 respite beds available at YVS, was mistakenly messed up by a friendly legislator who, thinking he was being

helpful, spread the proposed respite beds among all of the RHCs, which was in reality counterproductive to what was trying to be accomplished.

The DSHS Secretary resigned so there will be a new DSHS Secretary, who will hopefully be pro-RHC. The governor continues to be supportive. Jeff reminded everyone to continue to financially support ActionDD and VOR.

Mayor Johnson reported that DSHS plans to harvest timber from 700-800 acres of Rainier School land that is on the hill across the road. A plan is being put together and the projected revenue of \$1 million should go directly to a DD Trust. She also reported on utilities issues that are ongoing between DSHS and the City of Buckley. They co-own the water system, but DSHS would like the city to buy it and take it over. DSHS planned on having their own sewage treatment system which would have cost \$12 million, but instead they are joining with the city of Buckley for a cost of around \$4 million.

Regarding the issue with the drinkability of parts of Buckley's water system that impacted Rainier School, the bottom line is that the Board of Health reports have not resulted in shutting down the system. Following the drought last summer and the storm damage done to a pipeline last October, actions have been taken to decrease the manganese levels that were raised and to fix the pipeline situation. Lead levels are also being monitored.

The mayor also suggested getting to know legislative aides on a first name basis. Legislators and Senators can't read every e-mail/letter they get. Also keep communications short and focus on the most important topics/points.

Marya Gingrey introduced herself. She is the new Community Resource Program Manager at Rainier. She focuses on community relations/engagement and increasing Rainier's footprint in the community. She enjoys helping make systems, processes and people's lives better and likes to find ways to increase efficiency. She is excited about the idea of families telling their stories about how the DD system has affected their lives. She is currently assessing what is happening at Rainier. She also can be a support person for our research efforts. She let us know that they are working hard to engage with people in the community and increase partnerships with such places as the Chalet movie theater, Enumclaw pool, Seattle Aquarium, etc. Her desire is that the people at Rainier would lead happy, meaningful, engaged lives. She loves our promotional video and our website and will encourage people to visit our website. The Evergreen Bough newsletter will be revived, starting with an April 1st issue. We discussed having that on our FOR website, as well as an activities calendar. Kevin was mentioned as a possible contact person for activities. Another of Marya's goals is increasing/improving/encouraging employee engagement. A recognition program will be launched and they want to look for opportunities for them to be innovative and creative.

Katia went to Monroe prison and brought back more worms after selling some of Rainier's worms to Seattle Tilt. Monroe's worm program is a national model and they save \$45K per year. The prison, who has worked with PLU interns to develop bins that are more accessible to children, will build us some similar bins that are lower for better wheelchair access and have a clear wall(s) so that clients can see inside the bins. Ryan from Pierce Co. Public works is putting together a worm program video. The money made from the worm farm program will go to an account set up under ATP and will stay at Rainier to fund future programs. Creating a Science Center at Rainier is one future goal. Anyone who would like to see the new kiln that was obtained using funds from the Pierce County Arts Commission grant, can be shuttled over to the Art Center following the meeting. NW Glass in Seattle has and will be donating glass pieces for our stepping stone project. The artist who originally provided the glass came and gave instruction on which types of glass can be fired to dull the edges and how to do it.

The preparations for the Fashion Show are progressing nicely. Eric and Takiyo, who Harvey & Marya met when speaking in the community, are retired designers/leaders in the fashion/Miss America program (in Hawaii). They will be our judges. Beauty pageant winners will be dressed in their pageant gowns and will hand out the ribbon sashes to the clients at the end of the show. The Women's Prison will be making floral arrangements for the basketball hoops. Lori from channel 5 was invited since she was Miss Teen Hawaii and Eric & Takiyo were her mentors. Firemen and policemen were also invited. The firemen will be holding boots for donations. There will be a professional photographer and they are also hoping to do a press release. There will be a FOR booth inside the gym that Rhonda will be in charge of, where people can make donations and become members. Outside will be tents set up with items from the stone room, woodshop and thrift store, as well as an employment booth. They are still in need of larger sizes of formal wear and slip on flats shoes.

The raffle of See's candy raised \$38.