



"Saving Lives in Tennessee"

**TSPN Emeritus Group
Conference Call Meeting
Friday, March 17, 2017
9 AM Central / 10 AM Eastern
Call-in number: (641) 715-0861
Access code: 403540#**

Minutes

Members Present

Pam Arnell, Ed.D, Arnell's Counseling Service (Advisory Council Co-Secretary, Emeritus)
Jodi Bartlett, Ed.S, LPC-MHSP, Community Advocate (Upper Cumberland Regional Chair, Emeritus / Past Emeritus Chair)
Carol Burroughs, Lexington County Schools (Rural West Regional Chair, Emeritus)
Clark Flatt, President/CEO, the Jason Foundation, Inc. (Advisory Council Member, Emeritus)
Benjamin Harrington, CEO, the Mental Health Association of East Tennessee, Knoxville (Advisory Council Chair, Emeritus)
Jennifer Harris, St. Thomas Hickman Hospital (Advisory Council Chair, Emeritus)
Anna Shugart, Director, Emotional Health & Recovery Center, Blount Memorial Hospital (Blount County Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Alliance Chair, Emeritus / Emeritus Chair)
Harold Leonard, MA, LPC-MHSP, Cognitive Behavioral Specialists of the Tri-Cities (Advisory Council Chair, Emeritus)
Madge Tullis, Co-Founder and Past Advisory Council Chair, TSPN (Advisory Council Chair, Emeritus)

TSPN Staff Present

Vladimir Enlow, MTS, Executive Assistant
Scott Ridgway, MS, Executive Director

Proceedings

- Shugart called the meeting to order at 9:07 AM.
- She announced her intent to retire from her position at Blount Memorial Hospital at the end of June, and asked about its implications for her leadership of the Emeritus Group. Enlow told her that her retirement would have no bearing on her right to lead the Group; even so, Shugart suggested it would be a good idea for the Group Chair to hand off leadership to another member after a given period.
- Bartlett motioned for approval of the minutes from the previous meeting, Burroughs seconded, and there were no objections.

TSPN Update

- Ridgway provided an update regarding the Tullis Act's progress within the General Assembly.

- Currently, the House version has 20 co-sponsors, and Ridgway’s objective is to procure the sponsorship of House Health Committee and Subcommittee members who have not already signed on. The goal is to have everyone on the Committee and Subcommittee sponsor the bill so it will automatically go on the consent calendar.
- The current target within the House Health Committee are:
 - Ron Gant (Rossville)
 - Gary Hicks (Rogersville)
 - John Holsclaw (Elizabethton)
 - Sherry Jones (Nashville)
 - Bob Ramsey (Maryville)
 - Ryan Williams (Cookeville)
- The current targets within the House Health Subcommittee are
 - Bryan Terry (Murfreesboro) (chair)
 - JoAnne Favors (Chattanooga)
 - Matthew Hill (Jonesborough)
 - Cameron Sexton (Crossville) (Health Committee Chair)
 - Paul Sherrell (Sparta)
- Ridgway noted that most of these targets are in Tennessee’s East Grand Region. Ridgway plans to e-mail TSPN members and contacts within this region for their assistance.
- Shugart planned to contact Ramsey personally.
- Ridgway mentioned that this is the first piece of legislation introduced by Rep. Sam Whitson, and TSPN has advised him throughout the process.
- There has been some pushback against the bill, most notably from the Tennessee chapter of the National Association of Social Workers. They are concerned that adopting these requirements will leave them open to pressure from other groups to add others—i.e, the “slippery slope” fallacy Ridgway has referenced in other discussions of the bill. Ridgway has tried to address these concerns in his dealings with other professional agencies.
- NAMI Tennessee has contacted both Whitson and Sen. Richard Briggs (the bill’s Senate sponsor) to convey their support.
- Both the House and Senate versions will be heard in committee this Wednesday.

Council Member Orientation Project/Binder Review

- The following Emeritus Group members have e-mailed the central office to convey their availability to participate in the mentorship project: Arnell, Bernard, Burroughs, Flatt (but not immediately), Harris, and Shugart. Bartlett also agreed to participate as needed.
- Ridgway hopes to hear from the Governor’s Office about forthcoming appointments soon, but realizes that with the General Assembly in session they likely have higher priorities.
- Shugart confirmed that everyone on the call received copies of the four PowerPoint presentations that will be part of the orientation process. Everyone agreed that the presentations should be provided in the order that their corresponding sections appear in the Advisory Council binder.
- The PowerPoint section of the orientation was originally slated to last an hour or 90 minutes, but members of the Group agreed that it should be cut to 45 minutes.
- The first PowerPoint will be the one on the Tennessee Strategy for Suicide Prevention, as designed by Shugart. She felt that her file may be too wordy, but was unsure how and where to condense.
- Harris pointed out that each designer of one of the PowerPoints will need to develop talking points, and they can start working on them now to have them ready for the next Emeritus Group meeting.
- New Council members will receive hard copies of the PowerPoints for future reference.

- The second PowerPoint presentation, developed by Burroughs, covers Advisory Council roles and structure, as well as the selection process.
- Harris recommended that the presentation include further definition of the role of alternate, and specify that the Past Chair who participates on the Council is the immediate past chair.
- Arnell asked for input on the third presentation, which covers regional information.
- Some duplication was noted between her slides and those of Harris's projects and resources presentation (the last of the four). Both files include material on the Zero Suicide Initiative, the "Love Never Dies" Memorial Quilt, and Suicide Prevention Awareness Day.
- Ultimately, members decided that these items should be moved to the projects and resources presentation, with talking points referencing to the Advisory Council committees that oversee them
- Ridgway pointed out that the content related to the newsletters will change, and the central office has opted to switch to an e-newsletter format. Staff decided on this change based on their low readership as based by Constant Contact click-throughs, the amount of time invested in production, and the growing trend of e-newsletters among similar non-profits.
- In response to an inquiry from Leonard, Ridgway agreed that the survivor support groups should receive mention in the regional information presentation.
- Bartlett is currently working on the history section. She has compiled the content to be included but still needs to put in PowerPoint format. Tullis has reviewed and approved her work on the project thus far.
- Shugart complimented the group on the work done thus far. The next step is to combine the presentations into a single file and format ahead of the Council retreat in June.
- Members should make the recommended changes to their presentations, and then develop talking points to match. Then they can send the files to the central office, where TSPN staff will combine them into a single file with a unified format.
- Members appreciated the graphics Arnell used in her presentation, and it was recommended that other presentation designers add similar content or at least recommend graphics that could be added.

Goals for the Next Meeting

- Members agreed to hold the next conference call on Friday, April 21, at the usual time and over the usual line.
- In advance of this meeting, presentation designers will update their PowerPoint files and come up with talking points to be reviewed during the April session.
- Tullis conveyed her thanks and that of Ken Tullis for the work done on the project thus far.
- There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:51 AM.