

## Family, Support & Advocacy Subcommittee 5/15/17

### Attendees

Steve Hambley, State Representative  
Michelle Kipfstuhl, Catholic Charities  
Cindy McQuown, Cornerstone- Co-Chairperson  
Rebecca Rak, Brunswick Police Department  
Tiffany Shelton, ADAMH Board  
Loreen Simpson, Society for Handicapped Citizens

### Introductions

#### Updates from last meeting

Discussion of whether to pursue implementing a SOLACE (Surviving Our Loss And Continuing Everyday) and/or SOLACE Sibs group in Medina County.

#### SOLACE Group Discussion

- Members discussed the role a SOLACE and/or SOLACE Sibs group would have in Medina County; grief support and advocacy.
- The difference between SOLACE and Nar-Anon was discussed.
- What are criteria for group leaders? Is life experience needed?
- The criteria to start a SOLACE group was discussed.
- It was processed that once a chapter is started, there are grants that can be applied for, as well as access to outreach, awareness information and fact sheets.
- Drug Free Action Alliance will be contacted for more information.
- Suggestions to find a group leader/s were discussed, and it was suggested that a team of leaders may be a good idea. Would Nar-Anon be a good resource?
- Group members suggested people may be more likely to join the group if the leader has life experience with losing a loved one to addiction.
- Could the Family, Support & Advocacy Subcommittee provide oversight?
- It was suggested that we ask Drug Free Action Alliance if there are other counties that are spread out with more than one SOLACE group, and discuss a plan for eventual expansion.
- The timeframe for implementation was discussed.
- It was suggested that if it is implemented by September, we could kick it off and promote it at Kite Fest.

#### Current Resources for Grief Support

- Group members discussed who individuals may be receiving grief referrals from: churches, EMS, hospice, funeral homes, police officers, JFS, etc.
- Who do they refer to now? MH agencies? Could these entities benefit from having grief referral resources to send people to? Could they have a packet to hand out?
- Is Living Well Medina County looking at this information, and if so, when will information be gathered?
- What resources are available to teenagers, children, etc.

#### Stigma

- Are people resistant to seek grief services due to stigma?
- How to recruit for meetings.

### Information Dissemination

- How to promote ADAMH Board website as a resource.
- Ways to promote a potential future SOLACE group: utility bill statements, Cable networks, local tv stations, youtube, etc.

### GOALS Until Next Meeting

- Cindy, Rebecca and Loreen to reach out to community partners for information regarding resources and need.
- Michelle to create a Survey Monkey to send to community partners regarding grief resources available and needed.
- Tiffany will reach out to Drug Free Action Alliance to ask questions regarding implementing a SOLACE and/or SOLACE Sibs group and complete SOLACE application to discuss/review at next meeting.

### Conclusion

**Next Meeting- June 19<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am at the Human Services Building**

**Tiffany Shelton LISW-S, LICDC  
Planning & Program Director  
Medina County ADAMH Board**