

Better Together Board Meeting: Minutes

Friday, September 6, 2024 - 12 pm - 1 pm

Virtual/In Person Room 203 SFA School of Social Work Bldg

Purpose: provide updates on 2 Year Strategic Plan, Mental Health Committee, and upcoming events

Meeting started at 12:06 PM

1. Members in Attendance:

a. 12 members (excludes Anna and Lauren), 7 needed for quorum.

- Jordan Bridges
- Amelia Fischer
- Freddie Avant
- Andrew Dies
- Tracie Estepp
- Erin Windham
- Mario Torres
- Carlos Palomo
- Caroline Garner

2. Update on 2 Year Strategic Plan

a. Anna and Lauren are now part-time staff

- i. This is still going through the administrative process at SFA
- ii. Main tasks of these positions will be to facilitate the transition to non-profit and maintain forward movement

b. Board decision about beginning search for full-time position

- i. This position must go through a formal search process through SFA which can take quite a bit of time – it must be open for at least 30 days – the process will take at least 2 – 3 months.
- ii. It was recommended by Katie that a full-time position not be brought until there was more direction with the project
- iii. Members are in agreement to open a full-time position – it was suggested to aim for a social worker in that position.
- iv. Associate director vs. Project coordinator: this depends on how much autonomy and the skill level you want for the position. You must consider engaging what is happening now and guiding the sustainability of the organization. You must also consider grant-writing abilities when deciding who to hire. Dr. Avant suggests that Lauren and Anna work in the part time positions to have a better perception of Better Together and how it will operate going forwards and that can inform the full-time position
- v. Lauren and Anna will look at the job posting for Katie's position, Dr Avant will provide that documentation
- vi. This would be a 2-year period for the position
- vii. Skills needed for the position: – Social Worker's skill set – what other skills – community relationships, community building

viii. Erin made a motion to open the position, Carlos seconded.

1. All board members agreed to open the position
- c. 501c3 process: contract for Pam Anderson is in review
 - i. Still working on getting the contract to pay Pam at Compacity to help us file our 501c3 paperwork
 - ii. She will also be teaching the grants class in October
- d. Generic MOU in progress: 1-2 board members interested in helping with this?
 - i. 5 year – SFA would help us over 5 years even after leaving
 - ii. Lauren and Anna will be working on this – help requested from board members who have experience with contracts and agreements
 - iii. Andrew Dies agreed to help with this process
- e. Next steps: by-laws revision, board member expectations, open chair position
 - i. These will be revised with our new vision and mission – this is a priority before we elect a new chair – if any board members want to be involved let Lauren or Anna know
- f. Financial MOU
 - i. 2-year financial MOU – this will be something we work on later, will need a budget of how we are going to use the funds
3. Mental Health Crisis Committee Update (Amelia and Lauren)
 - a. Discussed meeting that Amelia, Lauren, and Anna had on 8/12/24
 - i. Amelia is waiting to hear back from Travis Clardy's office
 - ii. There are meetings scheduled with the DA's office and a local criminal defense attorney next week
 - iii. Lauren is scheduling a meeting with ADAC soon
 - iv. Lauren had a meeting with Ashley Gallon – Adult probation mental health office on 9/5
 - v. Feb 12-13 Nac/Angelina County chamber days at the capitol
 1. Erin will keep the information about these days going so that we can be involved in this process if we want to talk to anyone at the capitol
 - vi. Caroline suggested village Nac – Anna asked if they would be open to a conversation with us – Anna believes that they might be
 - vii. Kristen Bailey Wallace is still gathering data and attempting to schedule interviews with jail staff.
4. Missouri NASW Conference Presentation (Anna)
 - a. Anna is going to present with Dr Cooper about the appreciative inquiry process and Better Together
 - i. The hope is that we can replicate our process to support other counties. Anna attending this conference could help us in this process
 - ii. Erin hopes that gaining experience through presenting could help create value in the work we are doing
 - b. Anna is asking for the cost of travel – plane tickets was \$483
 - c. Erin made a motion to pay for Anna's Travel, Carlos seconded.
 - i. All board members agreed to open the position
5. Upcoming Events: Grant-writing workshop, Candid (Lauren)
 - a. Lauren and Anna are working to get this squared away
6. Learning Team Evaluation (Sara Mendez with TAMU)
 - a. Collaborative Member Interviews – they are wanting to complete interviews with collaborative members about their perceptions (how you got involved, what's your

role, how do you engage in the community, how do you engage with historically excluded groups)

- b. The interviews are about 30 minutes – they also have a paper survey
 - c. The responses are not associated with the individual, but rather used in a summary and can be provided as a report back to Better Together
 - d. Anna will send Sara's email to the board. Anyone wishing to participate can follow up with her directly.
7. Do we want to continue with the buddy benches?
- a. The answer was yes, Tracy is going to move forward with contacting other county school districts to gauge interest
8. Board Meeting Schedule: First Friday, October?
- a. We need to meet in October because there are so many action items that need to be decided.
 - b. Anna will send out a survey/doodle poll to determine the best day to meet.

Meeting adjourned 12:47 PM