

Family & Friends Support Group Minutes: Spring, April 26, 2008

The meeting was called to order by Jody Zacharias at 10:30 on April 26. She welcomed people and then turned the meeting over to the board members who spoke highly of the role of the Friends and Family group and asked that people consider participating on a higher level with Beverly Farm.

Keith Wright, Chairman of the Board introduced himself and spoke of the members of the group being able to help the board. He then introduced Don Perozzi who explained the various committees and asked people to consider either being on a committee or to sit in on a committee meeting this fall.

Martha Warford, Executive Director, recapped some of the important developments of the last 6 months:

1. There was a small increase from the state for monies paid for each resident.
2. There is a new union representative, due to the retirement of the other one. This will make it a little more difficult, due to the need to build new relationships, especially because of the development below.
3. The full contract comes up for renewal next year. Part of it was negotiated this year.

The board, then, left and Jody talked about how the group got started, and how the name-change happened. She then asked each person present to introduce themselves and their relationship to a resident at Beverly Farm.

There were between 40 and 50 family and friends present.

Jody then opened up the topic of discussion to questions and suggestions as to how people could help the residents and the organization. Many suggestions and topics followed:

1. There was a suggestion of a pen-pal program where people would write the residents. This was especially for the "next generation". It was noted, both by the board, during their presentation, and by the families here, that many of the board and the families were getting older. There are many families who have had a resident at Beverly Farm for over 50 years, and there are families where even the second generation which is involved is now in their 60's and 70's.
2. There was also a suggestion that we attract our other family members by making this a family event, not only for coming to Beverly Farm, but for seeing the attractions in the area, such as the Mississippi, the museums, casino, etc. It was noted that there is much to see and do around Alton, St. Louis and the surrounding area.
3. There was a suggestion that the names and pictures of the board members be published so that people would know them.
4. Julie Harter announced that there had been 11 new admissions since January, which lets us

know that the word is getting out.

5. John Hilgert introduced himself and explained a little about the guardianship program for those who were new. His effectiveness, and the support for families that this program gives, was spoken to by several families.

6. It was suggested that a copy of the weekend schedule be put up at the Comfort Inn, The Holiday Inn and the Super 8 if there was provision to do such. That way, all families could decide which committee meetings to attend.

7. One family had a question about additional family members receiving a ("hard" mailed) copy of "the Reporter". They were told that any member could be added to the mailing list.

8. There was a comment that the Reporter needs to be available on the web site. Someone thought it already was. I (Karen Hamp) attempted to find it and did not. There were news articles which were up to date, but not the Reporter as it was published. I also did not see Board Members pictures or names on the web site.

Acting Secretary,
Karen L. Hamp