



ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

MARCH 3, 2008

MINUTES

The KSF Advisory Council met on Monday, March 3, 2008 from 5:00 to 7:00 in the Peace Chapel. Members present were: Debbie Humphrey, Sue Neuharth, Bruce Holland, Terri Klawonn, Tom Smith, Fran Smith, Kevin and Emily Smith (via phone conference). Members absent: Bernadette Middeke, Pat Mathis, Fr. Bill Hitpas.

Our initial discussion centered on the **distribution of our DVD**. For the most part, filming has been completed and the editing process will take at least several months. We suggested distribution include: hospitals, high schools, local colleges, PSOP, churches, counselors, and mental health agencies. Various cover letters will be used to mail the DVD and will be specific to the group/individual receiving the letter. We anticipate that this DVD will be a primary promotional tool for KSF for many years to come. And we will track how many people join our support groups as a result of this project. (Since the Council meeting, we submitted a grant application to the Sidney Baer Foundation to cover the cost of the production and distribution of this DVD. The decision on the grant will be in June, 2008)

The **research project** with the University of Illinois is in process. The goal of the project is to determine the effectiveness of KSF programs (especially the support groups) and to get advice about possible improvements. We will need a waiver from KSF participants to take part in a survey and IU will produce that waiver. We discussed a concern about asking participants for too many waivers – e.g., A Balanced Life, DVD, and the research project. We thought that the value of these projects outweighed the possible negative impact among participants, and considered the possibility of one general waiver. We are also joining with other local agencies for possible research projects with SIUE.

We then discussed the relationship between **KSF and the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)** local chapters. A new NAMI chapter may be forming in O'Fallon, and we want to collaborate with them but not duplicate services. We will continue to meet with local NAMI leaders and the St. Clair County Mental Health Board in order to clarify and determine supportive relationships among these various mental health service

providers. The primary KSF contribution at this point is the strength of our support group for the family and friends of anyone with a mental illness.

Committee reports included these items:

Fundraising Committee: Bishop Gregory appears to be unavailable for our Dinner/Auction on Nov 1, and Sue Neuharth reports that the committee is seeking a speaker and MC, preferably a local, known personality. The committee is also working on a mailing list for sponsors and attendees, and they ask the Advisory Council to help identify participants in both these areas. Auction items will be stored at the Smith house, and the committee is also refining the computer program used last year to record sales.

Resource Committee: Debbie Humphrey reported much progress has been made on the resource directory. She has collected many, helpful addresses and contact information to be used by mental health consumers and their families and friends. Final questions about formatting the directory, cover design, and printing are in process. We also believe we can make the directory available through our KSF website.

Communications/Marketing Committee: Tom Smith reported that a potential replacement for Tom Mulhall is considering joining the KSF Advisory Council and to help in this role. The DVD project is the main focus of this committee at this point.

Financial Aid and Education Committee: this committee is currently supporting the planning efforts for the second annual "Erase the Stigma" conference to be held at the Shrine on August 22 and 23.

Directors' Report: the two **support groups** remain strong in Belleville, with new and "veteran" members participating on a regular basis. A new KSF support group for family and friends of anyone with a mental illness begins in March in Carbondale. Progress on the development of a **statement by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops** regarding mental illness and suicide is continuing with a recent joint meeting of Catholic Health Association, Catholic Charities USA, and USCCB staff outlining the next steps in producing this statement. KSF will receive the **Rev. Charles Rubey Award** from LOSS (Loving Outreach to Survivors of Suicide) on April 20. The **Piecing It All Together Conference**, held this year at SIUE, was very successful on all accounts. KSF participated with a booth, helping package items for hand-outs, and tabulating the evaluations for all 23 sessions.

Jeanne Haar from the Fundraising Committee put KSF in touch with the Sidney Baer Foundation who provides funding for qualified projects related to mental health in the St. Louis area. As mentioned earlier, we have followed up with this contact by applying for a grant to offset the cost of our DVD project.

Our next meeting is set for Monday, June 9 at 5:00 in the Peace Chapel.