

Hope Academy Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 2nd, 2018

- I. Introduction of board members and attenders
 - a. Present
 - i. Peggy Allen- Hope Academy Director
 - ii. Cindy Maxwell- Registered Nurse
 - iii. Diana Dermid- Parent
 - iv. Susan Sneed- Financial Manager, Mud Creek Church
 - v. Elsa Jarrin- Attorney
 - b. Not Present
 - i. Harriet Hilton- Realtor
 - ii. Andy Craver- Pastor, Upward Christian Fellowship
 - iii. Dr. Greg Mathis- Pastor, Mud Creek Church
 - iv. Daniel Shetley- Guardian, Hope for the Future
 - c. Others Present
 - i. Ellen Elley- Hope Academy Compliance Officer
 - ii. Suzy Freels- Grievance Board Chair
 - iii. Paige Hannah- Hope Academy Assistant Director
- II. Accreditation
 - a. Religion
 - i. Hope Academy can remain a Christian organization
 - ii. Participation in Bible study, prayer, and all other activities, is the choice of the member
 - b. Programs to be billed
 - c. Process of accreditation
 - d. Dates of accreditation survey
 - e. Cost of accreditation
- III. Scholarship Program
 - a. New approval process
 - b. All scholarships will be based solely on documents proving financial need
 - c. Scholarship applications will be approved by the board via email or in person
 - d. Sliding scale options were also discussed for those without innovations services
 - e. Potentially grants could cover the cost of the scholarship program
- IV. Incorporation, 501(c)3
 - a. Hope Academy became incorporated in November 2017.
 - b. Hope Academy applied for a 501(c)3 which was filled in August 2018. The confirmation letter is expected at any time, and once granted will be retroactive back to November 2017.
- V. Cost and Fees
 - a. Daily program costs are around \$600 a day
 - b. Tuition is currently \$10 a day

- c. Program currently operates Monday-Thursday due to costs of operation, Friday will be added again once funding is more stable
- VI. Need
- a. There are currently 2 day programs in Henderson County for individuals with Intellectual Developmental Disabilities
 - i. Hope Academy- currently non-state funded, participants must have a diagnosis of Intellectual Developmental Disability, no ability level restrictions
 - ii. Vocational Solutions- state funded, participants must be of a certain ability level (vocationally, in self-care, and medically) to be able to attend.
 - b. Day programs are greatly needed to give caregivers an opportunity to work, attend appointments, run errands, and to provide a break. Day programs also give persons- served a sense of belonging and independence.
- VII. Late Pick Up policy needs to be implemented
- a. A late charge was discussed but is difficult to enforce when many members are on scholarship or will be being billed through outside sources.
 - b. Mandatory absences were also discussed as an option, but was unfavorable as that would not allow us to bill for services for the missed day
 - c. The board was asked to consider options for discussion at the next meeting and hopeful implementation to follow
- VIII. Website development was discussed including
- a. New online donation options
 - b. New future Planning, Guardianship, and Public Benefits pages- Elsa was asked to review these pages for legal accuracy
- IX. Committees
- a. Safety Committee
 - i. Peggy Allen- Director
 - ii. Paige Hannah- Assistant Director
 - iii. Ellen Elley- Compliance Officer
 - iv. Skyler Lancaster- Safety Coordinator
 - b. Human Rights Committee
 - i. Peggy Allen- Director
 - ii. Paige Hannah- Assistant Director
 - iii. Ellen Elley- Compliance Officer
 - iv. Sandra Reed- Health Manager
 - c. Grievance Committee
 - i. Suzy Freels- Chair
 - ii. Harriet Hilton
 - iii. Ellen Elley- Compliance Officer
- X. Grants
- a. Grants that Hope Academy is hoping to apply for:
 - i. From the Community Foundation of Henderson County- a request was made earlier, but they requested we return when we have completed incorporation and 501(c)3

- ii. From the Sister of Mercy- an inquiry was made, but they requested we return when we are more financially stable- potentially next fall
 - iii. From the Community Foundation of Western North Carolina
 - iv. From foundations from surrounding counties that we serve (Polk, Buncombe, Transylvania)
 - 1. We may only request grants from these counties in relation to the number of individuals from that county we serve
 - b. For grants to be considered they must be:
 - i. Unique- we must express a need that is not already being met. Specifically, we must distinguish ourselves from Vocational Solutions.
 - ii. Financials must be completely transparent
 - iii. Hope Academy must represent a broad base. Specifically, we must specify that we serve mainly individuals who are not members of Mud Creek and that we are now branching away as a community center, not as a ministry of the church.
 - iv. It will be more likely to achieve funding from multiple small grants than one significant grant
 - v. It may be more likely to be granted funding for a specific program versus for Hope Academy as a whole.
 - c. Endowed Funds were also discussed to be further researched.
- XI. A story will be published in the Times News on Friday, October 5th about Hope Academy branching out into a community center and undergoing accreditation.
- XII. Future dates
 - a. The Advisory Board will meet on a quarterly basis.
 - b. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, January 29th, 2019 at 6:00 PM at Hope Academy.
 - c. Further dates will be set at that time.