

**COMMUNITY COALITION ON GRIEF & BEREAVEMENT, INC.**  
**JUNE 18, 2019 11:30 AM**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**KANGAS CAFÉ, HANCOCK**

**ATTENDANCE:** Nancy Beyers Wakeman, Barbara Kendall, Kathryn Moore, Bonnie Johnson, Kristine Putz, Michael Lutz, Sarah Cheney, Marja Salani, Cynthia Drake, Pam Anderson, Sarah Baratono, and Julie Beck. A quorum of members was established.

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:** Nancy welcomed members to the meeting and provided an opportunity for those present to focus on their agency news and other concerns. She shared her continued pleasure and thanks to all members for their support and work of the coalition.

**MEETING FOCUS:** The focus of our meeting was to plan our annual education program. Nancy also presented the nomination of Julie Beck to be elected to the board.

**ELECTION OF A BOARD MEMBER:** We unanimously elected Julie Beck to our board of directors for a two-year term. Julie is the volunteer and bereavement coordinator for UP Health System Home Care and Hospice. We accepted the resignation of Debbie Vaara. Sandy Michaels will no longer be able to be our web master and Mike Lutz has volunteered to accept this responsibility.

**MEETING MINUTES:** The minutes from our annual meeting in September of 2018 have been available on our web site. Members stated they had reviewed the minutes and the minutes were accepted.

**TREASURER REPORT:** Kathryn reported a balance in our treasury of \$1,846.08. We noted the addition of \$785 of grant funding for the creation of an up-dated web site. Barbara submitted this successful request to the Portage Hospital Auxiliary this spring. Our 2017-2018 audit took place on October 8, 2018 and was filed with the treasurer.

**PROGRAM REPORT:** The program committee has met, and Sarah Cheney presented a proposal for a fall community education program focusing on Children and Family Grief with a nationally known speaker. This opportunity can be offered with the addition of a second presentation/training to area professionals. Sarah and Mike reported the availability of grant funding awarded to Omega House by the Portage Health Foundation for such a purpose. We heard of the availability of Mindy Buell the director of Michael's Place in Traverse City Michigan. Sarah will confirm this speaker's availability for the last week of September. She will also explore a training site and budget for travel, fees, refreshment, and advertisements. Sarah will report to the program planning committee as soon as more information is available.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- The suggestion was raised again about publishing a two-page newsletter to include grief support information. Cindy volunteered to submit this handout to Barbara for the next newsletter. As soon as we have information on our fall program the newsletter will be written and mailed.
- Nancy has had contact with Steven Moeller about his plan for a Grief Recovery Training Program to be offered in our community this August. According to Steve's

last communication he does not know of anyone registered to date. Steve will be in the community next month and will connect Nancy.

- Mike and Sarah presented an update on the plans they have for their \$10,000 grant from the Portage health Foundation. In addition to making funds available for our community education plan they are offering a *Huskies Hugs* effort in conjunction with a student group at MTU. Families and teens will receive an information kit, available through school counselors and teachers.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- Mike presented a visual view of our new website pages. It has been edited several times with Mike's assistance and the assistance of the web creation company, *SMARTCreative*. Mike will continue working on this effort and it will soon be on line for access. We again acknowledged our gratitude to the Portage Hospital Auxiliary that made this possible.

**FUTURE MEETING SCHEDULED:** The next meeting will be our 2019 Annual Meeting scheduled for Tuesday September 17, 2019 at the Kangas Café..