

NH Mental Health Peer Alliance

Meeting Minutes

March 16, 2021

Present: Ken Lewis, Samantha Captain, Rachel Williams, Kelsey Loparto, David LaCroix, Bradley Friedman, Michelle Wagner, Doug Robertson, Kali Moulton and Sharon Reynolds

Previous Meeting Minutes

Tabled.

David Lacroix, New Hampshire Hospital (NH Hospital)

COVID-19 Update

Hospital has been COVID-19-free for past 6 weeks. All of the staff has been vaccinated and 33% of the patients have been vaccinated. Elderly patients have all been vaccinated.

Philbrook Adult Transitional Housing (PATH) Program

This 16-bed transitional housing program, led by Director Deb Robertson, has its own Peer Support Specialist, Joanne Bates. Thanks to this program, housing is becoming freed up.

Bridge Grants and Housing Voucher Programs have not had an impact on available housing, yet.

Queue in NH Emergency Rooms

Fifty-six people (22 children) are waiting in line for up to 3 weeks at a time. NH Hospital has freed up 10 beds for youth. Most children and youth are at Hampstead Hospital.

Secure Psychiatric Unit (SPU)

The State has funded the project to move forward. It will definitely be on the hospital grounds. Site visits were made to complete designs and drawings.

Additional Peer Specialist at NH Hospital

Kevin Leudert is the newest Peer Specialist.

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Advocacy Updates

Workgroups

All of the **Workgroups** report to the Advocacy Workgroup, which meets every Tuesday at 1 pm.

Only the lead person of each workgroup needs to attend.

Workgroup	Summary	Lead Person	Members	Meeting Dates
Advocacy		Ken Lewis?	Ken Lewis, Greg Burdwood, Martha Jo Hewitt, Mike Gann, Mike Skinner, Doug Robertson, Michelle Wagner, Sharon Reynolds	Every Tuesday at 1 pm
Legislative Advocacy		Tom Grinley?	Tom Grinley, David Sinclair, Sharon Reynolds	
Public Education & Membership	Increase awareness of issues affecting peers and provide information on a variety of topics, including discrimination, notification of upcoming bills and available resources.	Michelle Wagner	Michelle Wagner, Martha Jo Hewitt, David Sinclair	2 nd & 4 th Tuesday at 12 pm
Website & Social Media	Our goal is to utilize a multi-platform approach (facebook, twitter, instagram) to engage a broad online audience including those with lived experience, other members of the public, legislators	Doug Robertson	Doug Robertson, Mike Gann, Kali Moulton, Rachel Williams, Sharon Reynolds	

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	and other advocacy organizations in NH and nationwide as capacity expands. We will engage in activities such as creating info graphics, advocacy, awareness, networking and fundraising.			
Planning & Survey		Greg Burdwood?	Greg Burdwood, Samantha Captain	

Action Items: Each workgroup needs to come up with a one or two sentence summary, lead person, membership list and meeting dates. Send to sharonlynnereynolds@yahoo.com so she can add it to the website. It's also important that new members send their email addresses so she can update the website email list.

Action Item: Sharon needs to send last Advocacy Workgroup Meeting Minutes to Samantha.

Action Item: Potential language for the mission statement: "The NH Mental Health Peer Alliance is an advocacy-rights group empowered by the voices of lived experience in this state."

Sharon made a motion to table the potential language for the mission statement until the next Advocacy Workgroup meeting. Michelle seconded it. All voted in favor.