

NH Mental Health Peer Alliance

Meeting Minutes

February 16, 2021

Present: Samantha Captain, Martha Jo Hewitt, Michelle Wagner (NAMI NH), David Blacksmith (On The Road to Wellness), Greg Burdwood (Connections Peer Support Center), Tom Grinley (OCFA), Mike Skinner and Sharon Reynolds

Previous Meeting Minutes

Tabled.

Office of Consumer & Family Affairs (OCFA)

Quality Assurance (QA) Visits

Visits are moving forward. Positive responses, thus far.

Legislative Hearings via Zoom

Today at 1:30 pm, Mental Health Intervention Training for Police. On February 17, bill about Adding Dental Benefits to Medicaid. February 23 at 2 pm, bill about Mental Health Courts.

Winter Newsletter

By the end of the fiscal year, Tom plans to change the name of the Office of Consumer & Family Affairs. By July, the newsletter will be completely electronic.

New Timeline: Public Information

By February 1, you can report/appeal/focus on subject to the office.

Advocacy Going Forward

We did the survey last January. We need to build the infrastructure to mobilize and create an active, strong membership.

How do we get the word out? Create workgroups around these activities: legislative advocacy, website & social media, public education, planning, survey, etc.

We need to rebuild membership by reaching out to peer support agencies, Pathways, NAMI NH Peer-to-Peer classes, NAMI NH In Our Own Voice, Office of Consumer & Family Affairs, Peer Support Specialists at Community Mental Health Centers, Community Health Centers, etc.

Workgroups

Legislative Advocacy Workgroup: Tom Grinley, Sharon Reynolds

Public Education Workgroup: Michelle Wagner and Martha Jo Hewitt

Website & Social Media: Mike Gann, Doug Robertson and Sharon Reynolds

Survey: Samantha Captain and Greg Burdwood (Tom Grinley has Survey Monkey)

Action Item: Sharon sends brochure to sam.c@otrtw.org.

Voices Being Heard

It's important for our voices to be heard. When someone attends trainings or takes a certification exam, they should be hearing about us.

We should ask to be a guest speaker at the NH Behavioral Health Association.

When someone makes a complaint (Kerry Swenson, QI Director), receives emergency services, gets services from mobile crisis-response teams (Elizabeth F.) or gets services from assertive community teams, they should be learning about us.

There are 47 Peer Specialists in the State of NH. How many of them know about us?

Do Community Mental Health Center clients know about us?

We need to create a strategy to reach a wider audience.

Elevator Speeches

Each of us needs to create an elevator speech that will help us develop fruitful discussions with whomever we meet.

COVID-19 Information

For more information, visit vaccines.nh.gov.

National Alliance on Mental Illness NH (NAMI NH)

Peer-to-Peer Class

Michelle Wagner is leading an eight-week-long Peer-to-Peer Class via Zoom. It will be offered twice more this year. She hopes to collaborate and cross pollinate so we can learn from one another.