

NH Mental Health Peer Alliance

Meeting Minutes

October 20, 2020

**Present:** Ken Stanley, Diana Bastian, Martha Jo Hewitt, Tom Grinley, Michael Gann, Greg Burdwood, David LaCroix and Sharon Reynolds

### **Tom Grinley—Office of Consumer & Family Affairs (OCFA)**

The office plans to change their name by the end of the year. State staff is still working from home and virtual meetings are planned for the next few months.

There was a listening session from 1-3 pm on how to sustain a peer support workforce. It explored such topics as how to make peers valued members of teams, how to support peer workers in different environments and what people need to stay in the peer-support world

NAMI is launching a web page to help fight stigma. Called **603 Stories**, it tells the stories of those with lived experience. If interested in sharing your story, contact Tricia Ellis at [tellis@nasminh.org](mailto:tellis@nasminh.org).

**Action Item:** Tom Grinley welcomed the NH Mental Health Peer Alliance to submit a regular article for the OCFA Newsletter. We could approach PSAs to see if they'd put the article in their newsletters. Depending on the subject matter, we might want to approach newspapers, as well.

### **January Member Survey that Identifies Priorities**

Sixty people were surveyed in January about their priorities.

Do we build on the survey or create a new one? Some people would like members to rank each identified priority so we know which priorities to address.

**Action Item:** Ask Doug about the survey during our Website Subcommittee meeting. How does he want to proceed?

### **Telehealth**

Many people expressed satisfaction with receiving telehealth services, largely due to transportation challenges.

How do we reach out at the state and federal level to make telehealth services permanent and covered by insurance?

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**Action Item:** Make alliances with New England peer alliances (table) to build momentum at the federal level. Work with the NH Mental Health Planning & Advisory Council to build momentum at the state level.

**Legislators Available at Next Meeting**

Ken, Greg and Doug have booked legislators for our next NH Mental Health Peer Alliance Meeting.

**Housing & Housing Activities Letter**

We created a letter that addressed the priority of housing and housing assistance.

**Action Item:** Send to Alliance members. Share revisions by Friday with Alliance.

**Voting Information Letter**

Greg wants us to update voting information that we sent out with the survey.

**Action Item:** Update the Voting Information Letter with more information from the Secretary of State's Office and send it to Alliance members.

**New Futures Training & Funding**

Greg Burdwood wrote the \$2,000 New Futures Grant, which we received. Connections Peer Support Center will act as the fiscal agent for the funds. Half will be awarded soon and the rest will be awarded by the end of December 2020.

**Action Items:** Do additional trainings with New Futures. Take part in New Futures events that are tied to the grant award.