

NH Mental Health Peer Alliance
Advocacy Workgroup Meeting Minutes
April 13, 2021

Present: Doug Robertson, Michelle Wagner, David Sinclair, Harold Pineo, Thomas Jimino, Greg Burdwood, Ken Lewis and Sharon Reynolds

Meeting with Legislators

Doug met with Amanda Toill and Nicole Klein-Knight. The meeting went well. He told them about our name change and how we differ from peer support agencies.

The legislators are interested in feedback from peers. Doug encouraged them to attend the NH Mental Health Peer Alliance Meeting.

Workgroups

Public Education & Membership

Michelle plans to start with the survey.

Survey

Survey should include timeframe (6 weeks), reminder (3 weeks in), subject (when survey closes), etc. You can see the survey form at the <https://forms.gle/Vv4KSGYL6582fLPu5>.

Action Item: The workgroup hopes to send out the survey on by mid-May or early June. Since they are using Google forms, there is no limit on recipients and their feedback.

Action Item: Send surveys out widely. Include PSAs, Pathways, PATH, NH Hospital, CMHCs, NAMI NH, Transitional Housing, Spine Cord Injury (SCI) and OCFA. Ken recommended that a lead person inside each organization act as point person.

Action Item: Survey should include a COVID-19 question.

Zoom

Zoom enables meetings to be accessible. The NH Mental Peer Alliance plans to continue hybrid meeting capability when the pandemic ends.

Michelle emailed Ayla and Tom regarding hybrid meeting capability at 105 Pleasant Street, Concord, NH 03301. We can hold a hybrid meeting if Tom Grinley is present.

The workgroup will continue holding remote meetings via Zoom. We also discussed holding meetings at libraries around the State.

Action Item: Sharon will investigate the price of Zoom.

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Legislative Advocacy

Sharon has had no luck attracting other members to join the Legislative Advocacy Workgroup. She is hoping to persuade Melissa Silvey to join her.

Action Item: Sharon will circulate legislative activity before the NH Mental Health Peer Alliance Meeting to Advocacy Workgroup members.

The workgroup discussed encouraging members to engage in individual and collective advocacy. We need to explore synergistic partnerships with other groups like New Futures, NAMI NH and the Behavioral Health Association.

Action Item: Hold a summit to coordinate with New Futures, NAMI NH, Behavioral Health Association, etc.

Website & Social Media

Michelle would like to identify legislative priorities on the home page. Doug suggested that we include a hyperlink to Action Items, similar to a Youth advocacy group. Sharon would like to include the \$50 million budget cut to NH DHHS as a priority.

Action Item: Sharon will keep the Topics page as the home page, but put Legislative Priorities at the top of the page.

Action Item: The workgroup agreed to wait for the survey results before making Website & Social Media recommendations to the Advocacy Workgroup.

Action Item: Kali and Doug will coordinate the relocation of the Instagram account.

Action Item: Kali will circulate social media graphics to the Advocacy Workgroup.

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		Doug Robertson	Ken Lewis, Greg Burdwood, Kali Moulton, Martha Jo Hewitt, Mike Gann, Mike Skinner, Shannon Pyatt, Thomas Grinley, David LaCroix, Joann Bates, Samantha Captain, Kelsey	Every Tuesday at 1 pm

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			Loparto, Brad Friedman, Doug Robertson, Michelle Wagner, Thomas Jimino, Harold Pineo, David Sinclair, Richard Wiggins, Sharon Reynolds	
Legislative Advocacy	Advocate for equal rights and a recovery-oriented mental health system to legislators, peers, government personnel and the general public.	Sharon Reynolds	Sharon Reynolds	Every Tuesday at 2 pm
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, Doug Robertson, David Sinclair, Samantha Captain, Greg Burdwood	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	Every Thursday at 3 pm

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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.			
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