

NH Mental Health Peer Alliance

July 21, 2020

Present: Greg Burdwood, Ken Lewis, Doug Robertson, Tom Grinley (OCFA), David LaCroix (NHH) and Sharon Reynolds.

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

The Office of Consumer & Family Affairs will be changing its name. A proxy vote will be held at a to-be-determined date.

The newsletter will be a combined Spring/Summer issue. Should we include NH Mental Health Peer Alliance by-laws in the OCFA newsletter?

David LaCroix—NH Hospital (NHH)

NH Hospital (NHH) will open a 16-bed transitional unit at Philbrick. The goal is to have it operational by September. New positions include social workers, etc. Current tenants will be moved to other offices. They will install a bathroom and kitchen. It will be under the supervision of NH Hospital.

There are plans to refurbish Units E and F. No goal date has been set. New staff is expected to be hired.

The waitlist is currently 41 people. Kevin, a new peer specialist, will join David at NH Hospital in six or seven weeks.

A lawsuit is expected regarding boarding at Emergency Rooms.

Doug Robertson

Doug is working on the name and logo. We also need to revisit the mission statement to reflect the change in terminology from “consumer” to “peer” on August 22 at 11 am.

NAMI NH Conference

There will be breakout sessions at the summit: task-oriented and educational. Lynda Michaud Cutrell is keynote speaker: The 99 Faces Project: Portraits without Labels. Money is available from OCFA to attend the conference.

Survey

We want to use survey feedback to guide our legislative agenda.

Social Media Presence

We need to set up accounts on Twitter and Facebook, at a minimum, to establish a presence on social media.

NH Mental Health Peer Alliance

Email

Ken will send email to peers so we can get their input. We need a vote by next Monday.

Press Release

Greg will work on a press release that announces our advocacy and educational mission.

Ken Lewis

He plans to reach out to Kathy Chambers to see if we already have by-laws.

Department of Health & Human Services

Due to the coronavirus, our return will be phased in. We are not yet in the building.

Support People in Emergency Rooms

Tom mentioned the Behavioral Health Learning Collaborative, comprised of ten Community Mental Health Centers, hospitals and Peer Support Agencies.

Secure Psychiatric Unit (SPU) Money

The funds were used for COVID-19 mitigation. It was reallocated. The new budget has money for the Mental Health Ten-Year Plan.

MRT in Nashua

A Request for Proposal (RFP) was submitted to the Community Mental Health Center (CMHC). Money was extended until the end of August for housing and respite.

Action Plan and Strategic Communication Plan

Sharon needs to work on the proposed plans.