**

Date: 12/1/2023

Time: 9:00 – 12:00

Location: Zoom

Council Members:

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| Quorum: At any meeting of the Council a quorum shall consist of a simple majority of the Council members present who are voting members when the members present are no fewer than seven. The vote of those present and voting, if there is a quorum, shall constitute the act of the Council unless otherwise stated in these by-laws or State law | |
| **Present:** Bobby-Jo Bechard, Diane Bouffard, Stephanie Farquhar, Sarah Ferguson, Polly Finlay, Joel Gilbert, Christina Hardy, Sharon Jordan, Richard Ladd, Sr., William Lowenstein, Brianne Masselli, Vickie McCarty, Vickie Morgan, Susan Parks, Elizabeth Randall, Narissa Seamans, Malory Shaughnessy, Amy Taranko, Jeff Tiner | **Excused:** Ariel Linet, Helen Jones, Robin Levesque, |
| **Absent:** Michael Freysinger, Liz Remillard |

Guests: Heide Lester, Jon Reynolds

Minutes:

| Agenda | Discussion | Tasks/Conclusion | Responsibility |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Establish Quorum |  | Yes |  |
| Any changes to the agenda? |  | No |  |
| Discussion about updating Bylaw’s-any suggestions for change? | Keep substance abuse in the by laws.  Section 10 is confusing and needs rewriting, include “The Chair will call for a vote of the ~~Council~~ Executive Committee”  From definitions: Removed “Consumer” and replaced with person of lived experience.  Update the Mission, Vision and Values to the new language adopted in 2023  Cite the Federal Statute for the QIC | Section 10 needs re-wording for next meeting | Sarah Ferguson and Susan Parks |
|  | Narissa has reached out to SAMSHA for TA  Narissa had reached out to other states for by-law examples. | Contact other states | Narissa Seamans |
|  | By laws need reviewing | Council members will review by laws. Email suggested changes to Diane with citation. | Whole council |
| Attendance commitment from By Laws | Combine attendance commitment and conflict of interest annual forms | Find the forms | Diane Bouffard |
| New Member Mentor - What is this? | There are mentors already in place. | Create/ update guidelines for mentors | Membership committee |
| OCFS, DOE, OBH, DVR, DOC, OMS update | Joel Gilbert, DOC  status quo at DOC. DOC is working to get a new information system.  Sarah Ferguson, DOE  DOE is expanding Community Schools Model in Maine. DOE and DHHS collaborated for a training for SAU Foster Care Points of Contact and DHHS District Foster Care Points of Contact.  Christina Hardy, VR  Elissa Rowe has been selected as the new director for the Division for the Blind and Visually Impaired (DBVI) within the Bureau of Rehabilitation Services. Elissa has both a bachelor’s and a master’s degree in social work from the University of Maine and approximately thirteen years of experience in social services with the last several years in leadership positions at the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Child, and Family Services. Elissa is highly skilled at public program administration and ensuring that the needs of people being served by the State of Maine are being met. Elissa began her new role at DBVI on Monday, November 27th, 2023.  Brenda Drummond’s last day at the director for the Division for the Blind and Visually Impaired (DBVI) within the Bureau of Rehabilitation Services was on Thursday, November 30th, 2023.  We Continue to hire RCII’s across the State of Maine  Vertical Harvest hiring event- took place on Thursday, November 30th from 4:00-5:00pm via Zoom – see attached flyer for details.  Narissa Seamans, OBH  reached out to DOE Commissioner’s office to send WhyTry information out to DOE listserv.  Stephanie Farquhar, OBH  • We completed our second stakeholder listening session on MH rights. We had a strong turnout of providers and advocates, and customers from community and state hospitals.  • We continue to move forward with Mobile Crisis Rate reform and anticipate presenting the new model in January.  • Consumer Surveys have been completed and we will receive a final report out in the first of the year |  |  |
| SAMHSA Community Mental Health Block Grant (CMHBG) | Amy Taranko, OBH  Behavioral Health walk in clinic for children opened 2 weeks ago in Bangor by CHCS. Families leave with plans and follow up appointments scheduled.  2 sites are Federal CCBHC. Maine is working on creating state CCBHCs to expand walk in clinics.  Narissa Seamans, OBH  WhyTry – 4 sessions had about 160 participants. Because of great feedback, have scheduled 5 more Level 1 trainings. Looking to add Level 2 trainings in June.  MHBG - Annual report is due today, has been submitted and accepted. Finalizing 2022 funding and grant close out.  Stephanie Farquhar, OBH  Pertaining to Peer Recovery specifically:  • All contracts are encumbered  • Just submitted updated RFP for CM Review - RFP reflects SAMHSA COSP (Consumer Operated Services Program) model best practices  • Recovery Manager has met, as least once, with each current provider to discuss Dept’s vision for the service, including  1. outreach/engagement,  2. strategic partnerships,  3. participant leadership,  4. increasing diversity,  5. fostering an inclusive community,  6. completing a self-assessment using the FACIT (fidelity assessment of common ingredients)  • OBH has received notification that Maine Behavioral Health plans to close its Biddeford Peer Center on 12/31/23. MBH has been undergoing significant efforts to notify participants, and facilitate connections to local services, including to peer services through the York County CCBHC MBH operates. |  |  |
| Provider agency updates- | | Vickie McCarty, Consumer Council of Maine  Consumer Council of Maine has hired a new outreach coordinator. They have started “Rock and Talk” – have conversations while creating painted rocks. Held 3 regional forums – concerns: lack of housing, lack of transportation, lack of services. Maine Hope Conference FaceBook page.  Group called “Self-Directed Care”. Collecting feedback for the Rights of Recipients, for adult. Vickie and her director did a legislative workshop with Speaking Up For Us. Bridging and Rental Assistance Program (BRAP vouchers) discussion with Office of Behavioral Health. Office hours are now 8 – 4. Having a book group around We Can Decide Together, by C Freshley. Certified Community Behavioral Health Center meeting. LD 540 A Bill to Have Pilot Programs for Peer Respite. Sending postcards to legislators.  Malory Shaughnessy, AAMHS  Alliance is looking to put together a package called Maine Resilient with bills that had support and not yet been funded. | Look at voting to write a letter of support for LD 540  Look at voting to write a letter of support for Maine Resilient package. |  |
| Legislative committee update | | Committee will meet this month to prepare for Leg session | Create Doodle and set meeting | Malory Shaughnessy |
| Membership committee update | | Met and discussed attendance as reported above. |  |  |
| Approve minutes | | November minutes are still in draft form |  |  |
| Approve treasurer report | | There are outstanding receipts.  Liz Randall moves to accept the report as it is, Sarah Ferguson seconds | check for updated receipts  Accepted unanimously | Malory Shaughnessy |
| Set the next agenda: Jan | | Alice Preble – Peer Support  Ellie Larrabee – Children’s Crisis Specialist | Narissa will work with Stephanie to ask if both Adult and Children’s Crisis Specialists can present | Narissa Seamans |
| Agenda for Feb | | Jon Reynolds - Co-Occurring Drug Court presentation |  |  |
| Monthly Activities | | Collect monthly activities that relate to the Block Grant to inform the applications | Use this link for the Google Form: [QIC Monthly Update](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfxnvFOkU3wJBYi77CWskX6WcyPOUJjnetuzos4bcHYUuLzSg/viewform?usp=sharing) | Full QIC |
| Meeting adjourned at: 11:13 AM | | | | |

Submitted by: Sarah Ferguson

(Secretary)

Date: 12/1/2023