

Emergency Service Provider Wellness Commission

APPROVED Meeting Minutes

10/27/21

- Meeting opened at 10:05
- Members and Guests
 - In-person Commissioners - Stephanie Busch, Pete Lynch, Mark McDonough, Prescott Nadeau, Trevor Whipple,
 - On-Teams Commissioners- Len Howard, Bill Elwell, Matt Engels, Emma Harrigan, Cindy Lack, Aaron Cochran, Vicki Fielding, Lance Burnham , Emily Wilson, Clarke Collins, Barbara Neal, Lauri McGivern, Lori Gurney, Kate Lamphere, Samantha Sweet, Dean Shatney,
 - On-Teams guests - Bobby Arnell, Mourning Fox, Beth Novotny
 - Absent - Karim Champman, Seth Loomis, Gene Perkins,
- Welcome new members and guests
- Commission terms – We have received guidance from the Governor’s office. The State positions that have been identified (Secretary, Commissioner, Director..) is an appointed position which do not have term expirations. The remainder of the commissioners have to be reappointed every three years. Terms begin and end every year on February 28 and a list of term end dates is being sent to the commissioners. for the first are now in place
- Beth Novotny spoke to the group about how to prepare for the legislative process. Her comments included the importance of identifying where there are areas of the State that do not have access to behavioral health programs in the legislative report. She stressed that when meeting with the legislature it is important to show a map of the State with all of the gaps. Beth recommends we don’t pursue legislation immediately, however if there is money needed to move the Commission to the next phase, we should ask the legislature to help. She encouraged the group to take advantage of the COVID funds if possible. Beth offered to assist the Commission as needed.
- Following Beth Novotny’s comments a list of items that needed to be answered for each discipline was distributed and working groups were assigned for Law enforcement, Fire, EMS, Dispatch, and Corrections. Each group was asked to meet separately and answer the following question by November 10:
 - Services that exist
 - Peer Support, Clinicians, EAP services, Education, Family Support, Suicide Prevention
 - Are services state-wide, regional, or organizational
 - What services exist to support families

- Gaps in service
- What trainings exist to support
 - Clinicians
 - Peer Support Team
 - Resilience, De-escalation Training
- Barriers that allow access to service
 - Qualified clinicians
 - Who exists?
 - How do we attract and retain?
- Legislation currently in place
- Are there impediments to reporting issues
- The groups met in break out rooms to discuss how they would move forward. After a short period in individual groups the following representatives reported out.
 - Law Enforcement – No response
 - Fire – Bill Elwell advised that the group were planning additional meetings to put together information
 - EMS – Bobby Arnell
 - Dispatch – Barb Neal reported that they had preliminary discussions about services and would be meeting to put together more information
 - Corrections – Mark McDonough
- Timelines for preparation and delivery of the legislative report were outlined to include the follow tentative milestones
 - Working group discussion deadline (?)
 - Working group written responses (January 1)
 - Commission report development (January)
 - Commission report deadline for draft (February 1)
 - Final report (February 20)
 - Legislative committee meeting (March 1)
- Next meeting is on November 17 at 1:00pm in Waterbury and virtually
- Meeting concluded at 11:37