

Emergency Service Provider Wellness Commission

APPROVED Meeting Minutes

April 11, 2022

Meeting opened at 11:03

Welcome

- Meeting was entirely remote via Teams
- **Members in Attendance:** Stephanie Busch, Mark McDonough, Barb Neal, Trevor Whipple, Bill Elwell, Lance Burnham, Clarke Collins, Emily Wilson, Emma Harrigan, Cindy Lack, Leonard Howard, Vicki Fielding
- **Guests in Attendance:** Bobby Arnell
- **Communicated would not attend:** Mourning Fox, Kate Lamphere, Prescott Nadeau, Samantha Sweet, Lori Gurney
- **Absent:** Seth Loomis, Gene Perkins, Aaron Cochran, Dean Shatney, Mathew Engels, Karim Champman,

Adopt minutes from 1/4/22 meeting

- There was not a quorum to approve the 1/4/22 drafted minutes. Stephanie will send out the 1/4/2022 mins to members to approve via email.

Update on status/progress of report to the legislature

- The group discussed continuing to work on the first report for the next legislative session (2023) to ensure that the data and commissions' recommendations are included in the report.
- There was discussion around checking if there is a specific annual date that would be impactful. Dates discussed include First Responder day (10/28), PTSD Awareness Month (June), VT MH advocacy day at the State House (typically first week of February)

Presentation of proposal to conduct Statewide Wellness/Behavioral Health Assessment

- Burlington Fire is currently in the process of a comprehensive Wellness/Behavioral Health Assessment
- the ESP Wellness Commission is limited in our ability, time, and knowledge to conduct such a statewide assessment
- Previous survey conducted is limited in the depth of information it can provide
- A comprehensive statewide assessment will provide the in-depth knowledge required for the commission to make accurate and specific recommendations to the legislature.

- The work would include interviews with stakeholders, first responders from all five first response groups, data collection, analysis of available resources, and a report with findings and recommendations.

Discussion of new timeline for report

- The members in attendance discussed continuing to work on the first report to be submitted at the end of 2022, for the 2023 legislative session.

Discussion/decision on path forward

- **Next Meeting:** Stephanie will send out a Doodle Poll for the week of May 16th.
- The group agreed that the commission should meet monthly now between Fall to develop the report and recommendations.