

**VSH Futures  
Peer Support Program Development Workgroup**

**June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2009  
Minutes**

**Upcoming Meetings:**

- **The Futures Transformation Council will be meeting on June 29<sup>th</sup> at the Waterbury State Complex, Stanley Hall, Room 100 from 2:00 – 4:15. The Vermont Crisis Alternative Program Development Plan and recommendations of the Peer Support Program Development Workgroup regarding the plan will be presented at this meeting.**

Present:

Ed Paquin  
Kitty Gallagher  
Pam Corcoran  
Steven Morgan  
Linda Corey  
Pam Corcoran

Minutes: Nick Nichols

Updates from Vermont Psychiatric Survivors (VPS) and Green Mountain Support Group (GMSG)

Kitty reported that the VPS Board of Directors passed a resolution regarding the sponsorship of the next phase of the Vermont Crisis Alternative (VCA) Program:

“The Board of Directors of Vermont Psychiatric Survivors approves VPS sponsoring the next phase of the Vermont Crisis Alternative Project, and approves VPS undertaking the negotiations and activities appropriate to the sponsorship.”

Steven Morgan reported that he spoke with several members of GMSG about the organization’s interest in sponsoring the next phase of the VCA project, and there was consensus that GMSG is not interested in bidding on the project as a potential sponsor.

Discussion re: the Next Phase of the Project

Based on the information that VPS would likely become the sponsoring organization for the next phase of the project, the workgroup discussed the draft of Recommendation #4 from the last meeting. Linda provided information on the terms that should be used to describe both the committee and the position that will be created to oversee the next phase of the project. Until the VCA program becomes an independent 501©3 organization, the committee that oversees the program should be called an “advisory board” instead of a board of directors. Because the program will be under VPS, the VPS Board of Directors will have ultimate oversight of the program. In addition, the position that oversees the development and operations of the program should be called a program coordinator instead of an executive director or program director.

The workgroup spent the remainder of the meeting trying to modify Recommendation #4. The group agreed on steps 1, 2 and 4 of the recommendation, but could not agree on the wording for step 3.

The following are two different versions of the recommendation, with the differences highlighted in yellow:

**Version 1:**

***Recommendation #4: The Workgroup recommends the following next steps re: the development of the VCA program:***

- 1) ***Select a sponsoring organization: DMH should negotiate with Vermont Psychiatric Survivors to act as the sponsoring organization for the next phase of the development of the Vermont Crisis Alternative Program.***
- 2) ***Create an Advisory Board for the Program: This advisory board will be created by VPS and will oversee the hiring of the Project Coordinator and the creation of the program. Members of the Futures Peer Workgroup should have the option of joining the advisory board assuming they are willing to accept the roles and responsibilities of the advisory board.***
- 3) ***Hiring a full time Project Coordinator using a competitive, widely-advertised process: The hiring process would focus on hiring someone who [could] eventually become the Executive Director of the program once it becomes independent, with the understanding that the Board of Directors of the new, independent program would have the ultimate decision of who is hired into that position.***
- 4) ***Develop the program and establish 501©3 status: The Program Coordinator would work with the program advisory board under Vermont Psychiatric Survivors to chose the location, create the program, begin operations, and establish the program’s 501©3 status. As part of the process to establish 501©3 status, a program board of directors will be created to assume oversight of the program. Members of the program advisory board may choose to join the board of directors, and members of the program’s local community may also join the board.***

## Version 2:

**Recommendation #4: The Workgroup recommends the following next steps re: the development of the VCA program:**

- 1. Select a sponsoring organization: DMH should negotiate with Vermont Psychiatric Survivors to act as the sponsoring organization for the next phase of the development of the Vermont Crisis Alternative Program.**
- 2. Create an Advisory Board for the Program: This advisory board will be created by VPS and will oversee the hiring of the Project Coordinator and the creation of the program. Members of the Futures Peer Workgroup should have the option of joining the advisory board assuming they are willing to accept the roles and responsibilities of the advisory board.**
- 3. Hiring a full time Project Coordinator using a competitive, widely-advertised process: The hiring process would focus on hiring someone who [would] eventually become the Executive Director of the program once it becomes independent, with the understanding that the Board of Directors of the new, independent program would have the ultimate decision of who is hired into that position.**
- 4. Develop the program and establish 501©3 status: The Program Coordinator would work with the program advisory board under Vermont Psychiatric Survivors to chose the location, create the program, begin operations, and establish the program's 501©3 status. As part of the process to establish 501©3 status, a program board of directors will be created to assume oversight of the program. Members of the program advisory board may choose to join the board of directors, and members of the program's local community may also join the board.**

**Please contact Nick Nichols at [nick.nichols@ahs.state.vt.us](mailto:nick.nichols@ahs.state.vt.us) or 652-2029 by Friday, June 26<sup>th</sup> to let him know which version of Recommendation #4 you support.**

### Next Steps

Nick will organize a meeting next week of the members of the workgroup who are interested in presenting the workgroup's recommendations at the Transformation Council on June 29<sup>th</sup>. If you are interested in helping with the presentation, contact Nick at the email or phone number listed above.