

CBHPSS Committee Meeting Minutes

5/15/20

I. Call to order

Mandy Nunes called to order the regular meeting of the CBHPSS committee at 10:00am on 5/1/20 at Go to Training call.

II. Roll call

Ashley McLean conducted a roll call. The following persons were present: Mandy Nunes(rimrock), Erica Durham (Extraordinary Distances), Ashley McLean (Recovery coach supervisor MPN), Michelle Lewis (Wellness Consultants) Laurie pope (igniting hope), Ginny Carnes (center for mental health), Amanda Walton (EMMHC), Greg Arciello (MPN board member), was not present with communication why.

Ashley McLean - ashley@mtpeernetwork.org

Mandy Nunes- mandynunes1983@gmail.com

Greg Arciello- gregarciello@gmail.com

Amanda Walton- awalton@emcmhc.org

Erica Durham- Extradistances@gmail.com

Michelle Lewis- wellness.consultants@q.com

Laurie Pope- lauriepope.pss@gmail.com

Ginny Carnes- ginvirgc1958@gmail.com

III. Approval of minutes from last meeting

Michelle made a motion, Laurie seconded. Meeting minutes were accepted with unanimous decision.

IV. Open issues

- a) We talked about the Board of Behavioral health meeting and how we thought that it went. The committee felt that we were well prepared and professional in our delivery of the message we want them to know and support.
- b) Ashley narrowed down the list of legislators to consider for the sponsorship of our bill. We all had submitted an email of the language we want to send out and we collectively came up with an email to send out to the legislators. It reads as follows:

My name is _____. I am a Certified Behavioral Health Peer Support Specialist (CBHPSS), and a member of the CBHPSS committee that, in partnership with Montana's Peer Network (MPN), has been tasked with advocating for and representing the growing workforce of CBHPSS within the state of Montana. We serve and support the most vulnerable individuals in the State of Montana. We walk beside those individuals, helping them in their personal battles against mental health, addiction disorders and often subsequent co-occurring disorders. We share our lived experience and personal story of mental health and addiction recovery, therefore offering hope that recovery is possible. Chances are very real, that you, or someone you know, will find themselves in similar battle against addiction or mental health crisis.

As with all other behavioral health professions, we are governed by the Board of Behavioral Health (BBH). Currently, CBHPSS's are the only behavioral health professionals that do not hold representative seats on the BBH. We also believe it is in the best interest of the BBH to have adequate representation from all the professions it governs. At this time, CBHPSS from across the state are drafting legislation for the creation of two additional seats (currently 9 seats, adding 2 prevents opportunity for deadlock), providing CBHPSS the opportunity for a voice in matters related to regulations, rule changes, and the governance of our profession. Our primary desire is to uphold the integrity of our code of ethics and scope of practice, while providing continued advocacy and support for our peers as well as the continued safety of the general public and those we serve.

With the support of National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), MPN, and various organizations throughout the state that employ and utilize peer support, we are working diligently to obtain strong and passionate bi-partisan sponsorship in support of this bill. Please help by answering a few questions to help us find the right sponsor(s) for this bill.

1. What are your thoughts on this effort? Are you willing and able to support this bill?
2. Are you passionate and motivated to advocate for change within the Behavioral Health system? Do you have a record of effective bill sponsorship?

3. Do you believe licensed professionals should be represented on the governing board overseeing the professional actions, licensing regulations, and other administrative rules specific to that profession?
4. Can you provide examples of successful bills you have supported? How did you devote time and effort to bring that bill to fruition?
5. Do you believe bi-partisan Support is necessary to accomplish CBHPSS seat representation within the Board?

Thank you for your time and assistance.

Respectfully,

V. New business

- a) Mandy and other committee members will be attending a Board meeting for MPN and get the ok to have a Montana's Peer Network email to send out the legislative email.

VI. Adjournment

Mandy Nunes adjourned the meeting at 11am.

Minutes submitted by: Ashley McLean

Minutes approved by: Michelle made a motion, Laurie seconded. Meeting minutes were accepted with unanimous decision.