

GREATER LOWELL ADVISORY BOARD COMMITTEE MINUTES

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Meeting: Greater Lowell Advisory Board Meeting

Date: January 23, 2018

Attendees: Cynthia Smith, Lisa Brown, Daniel O’Connor, Mary-Verdella Nelson, Sheila Och, Kevin Jones, Joanne Souza, Guests: Rachael Fortunate, Graduate Student, Robert Bancroft, COOP Trinity, EMS, Eva Toscano, Lowell Site Director

Topic	Discussion	Assignment/Task	Point Person	Notes
Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes	Deferred until next month.			
Kevin Jones & Robert Bancroft – Merrimack Valley Project and Lowell CO-OP Program	<p>Introductions were made to Kevin Jones, a Lowell Firefighter and newly appointed Site Board Member and Robert Bancroft, an EMT from Trinity. Mr. Jones is the Addiction and Criminal Justice Chairperson for the Merrimack Valley Project (MVP). Lack of transportation to detox and rehab centers was discussed. MVP is proposing a 24/7 access hotline and van service to transport clients in the Merrimack Valley that require assistance to detoxes and rehabs. MVP is looking for the funding for this program which will cost approximately \$500,000. It was recommended that the Board contact their Legislators to support this budget line</p> <p>Mr. Jones and Mr. Bancroft are members of the Lowell CO-OP program. The CO-OP program is a partnership between Lowell House Inc., Lowell Police Department, Trinity EMS Inc., and the Lowell Fire Department.</p>	Information sharing		

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<p>Kevin Jones & Robert Bancroft – Merrimack Valley Project and Lowell CO-OP Program (Continued)</p>	<p>The CO-OP Team provides follow up visits to overdose victims and their families and connect them to the necessary services they require. Mr. Jones stated that the team sees people in crisis on a daily basis. They are on-call 24/7. It was noted that they receive approximately 6-10 calls from clients per week. A handout was distributed to board members and Mr. Bancroft gave an overview of the handout. He shared that there are many homeless clients in the Lowell area. He gave an overview of a typical encampment which is very dangerous areas that always have many needles and are a high risk for needle sticks and exposures. Mr. Bancroft explained the differences between Heroin, Fentanyl and Carfentanil. Heroin being the least dangerous and Carfentanil being the most dangerous. He stated that no one is really using Heroin anymore. Fentanyl is what is currently out on the streets. Mr. Bancroft stated that there have been very few cases of Carfentanil on the streets. It was noted that inhalation of Carfentanil can be lethal.</p> <p>Mr. Bancroft gave an overview of how Narcan is distributed. He stated that in most cases clients require two doses. Trinity will administer Narcan and assist with breathing. Mr. Bancroft explained that Opioid related deaths are due to respiratory arrest.</p>			
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<p>Kevin Jones & Robert Bancroft – Merrimack Valley Project and Lowell CO-OP Program (Continued)</p>	<p>Mr. Bancroft stated that Lowell Community Health Center and Lowell House provide Narcan training for anyone interested and it only takes approximately 20 minutes.</p> <p>There was discussion regarding the First Watch Program which is an app for first responders that that flags data in real times.</p> <p>There was discussion regarding recent overdoses. It was noted that there were 9 overdoses within the past 72 hours in Lowell, Chelmsford or Dracut. It was noted that if there are 15 or more overdoses within 72 hours a message goes out over social media letting clients know that there is a bad dose of drugs on the streets.</p>			
<p>Northeast Area Board – Patty Bergin</p>	<p>Deferred. Patti Bergin was unable to attend the meeting.</p>	<p>Information sharing</p>		
<p>Client Holiday Party Review</p>	<p>All agreed that the Annual Client Holiday Party was a success. Attendance was approximately 175 clients. The clients all enjoyed the food and raffles. Just about everyone won something from the raffles due the many donations that were received from NAMI and local vendors in the area.</p>	<p>Information sharing</p>		
<p>Announcements</p>	<p>Ms. Toscano stated that the Site Board fundraiser will be held at the Casa Blanca Mexican Restaurant on March 22, 2018.</p>	<p>Information sharing</p>		

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<p>Announcements (Continued)</p>	<p>Board members were asked if they wanted to open up the fundraiser to lunch and dinner, and they agreed. The flier must be presented to the restaurant upon arrival in order to receive the 20% donation which includes dinner and drinks. The Solomon Tax Exempt form will be sent to Patty Bergin.</p> <p>The deadline for vendors to respond to the ACCS RFR's was on 1/22/18. Ms. Toscano will sit on one of the committees for the North East Area. The contracts will be effective 7/1/18.</p> <p>Mr. O'Connor announced that the Point In Time Count will be held on January 31 at 6:00 a.m. for anyone interested in volunteering.</p>			
<p>Announcements from Board Packets (continued)</p>	<p>Ms. Toscano gave an overview of the Renaissance Club employment reports for December and January. The Renaissance Club was the 3rd highest clubhouse in the state for both months. They continue to do an excellent job. Ms. Toscano announced that Chelsey Brown has accepted a Vocational Master's position working for PACT. The Renaissance Club will be recruiting a replacement. There is also a second staff vacancy at Renaissance.</p> <p>Ms. Toscano stated the Renaissance Newsletter was included in the Board packets for review.</p>			

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ADJOURNMENT/ NEXT MEETING	Ms. Toscano announced that she will be the presenter at the February Site Board Meeting. She will be giving a presentation on Reforms to Strengthen and Improve Behavioral Health Care for Adults. 1:30 p.m./ The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 27, 2018.	Information sharing		
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DMH staff: Minutes should be emailed to **DMH-DL – Open Meeting Notices** after they are approved by the Public Body.