**SE Regional Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Meeting Date: September 14th, 2020**

**Chair:** Sean Brinda

**In Attendance:** Joann Johnson, Eric Ayers, Nancy Scheible, A. J. Derro, Ellen Kozlowski., Velma Kennedy, Marvin White, Sean Brinda, J. T. Smith, Joseph P. Gorman, Jeanne Hill, Hope Kirkland, Tracey Riper Thomas, Grace Cole, Penny Johnson, Uriel Lewis, Sue Shannon, Amelia Mraz, Kim Renninger, Sheila Hall Prioleau, Julie Whitmore

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| **Topic** | **Discussion** | **Action** |
| **Review of minutes** | Reviewed minutes | Approved |
| **Budget Update****Election****Conference/Retreat Subcommittee Report****Advocacy Subcommittee Report****Review of Best Practices Guide****OMHSAS****County Reports****Next Meeting**  | * We didn’t spend any money last month, or in July.
* An email was sent to PMHCA letting them know what we tend to spend money on and why couldn’t spend it. I never heard back from them so we are taking that to be a good sign.
* Normally by now we would be figuring out what categories to spend it on, but we can wait until we have a treasurer in place.
* We don’t have any information yet from the state on whether we are getting any money and how much. (Kim)
* Does there need to be advocacy around that to the state?
* Part of the issue is that the budget that was passed was temporary that ends in November as part of the emergency declaration. From last we heard, OMHSAS meeting they do not know anything themselves. We are keeping it on their radar that we have not been funded.
* We never heard back from Delaware county about the money we allocated to the 4 counties. Sue thinks we should figure out this month how we want to allocate the rest of the money. We tried to get in contact with them again and let them know we would be deciding how to redistribute the money if we hadn’t heard back from them.
* We never got an answer if we can carry over the money so we don’t know if that $700 needs to be allocated right away (from PMHCA). One year OMSHAS said we can carry it over, but most times it’s a no-no. however this year is an extraordinary year. Nancy will ask Jill. We can always put it aside and allocate it from scholarships and grants. But we need to give specific need for those funds. Motion for Nancy Scheible to ask OMHSAS planning council would prompt them to come up with an answer. Nancy will present about CSP. We will wait to get feedback and circle back to budget questions.
* Brinda will look out for email from Scott Ashenfelder about roll over money.
* Motion to not vote because there are the exact number of people nominated for each position.
* Send people that aren’t here congratulations email.
* Thank you everyone for your service, and we welcome our new nominees!
* Think about nomination for the conference committee because Velma is thinking of stepping down.

 * As far as the money allocated for the retreat, since it is going to be virtual, the money will go back in to the budget. (Ask sue about money.)
* Philadelphia virtual conference went very well.
* MCIU said if we let her know by October 19th we can be refunded. Need to know today what we are going to do with the conference.
* Proposed motion to have the conference Nov 2nd in virtual format. Make sure presenters are still available. Motion passes to have the conference virtually on Nov 2nd.
* Velma will let us know if we can still do it on the 2nd and if the presenters are still available.
* We discussed the Buxmont legislative forum happening October 9th (just bucks and Montgomery county.) We will be discussing questions at our local CSP meeting.
* We are almost done the COVID survey and will be posting it soon on survey monkey as soon as possible.
* We also worked on a letter to Toomey addressing Pennsylvania’s need for assistance from the government due to the heroes act not getting passed by the senate. Our budget for the state is only good until the end of November we want to advocate for PA and write and letter addressing the need for funding for mental health services in PA to be continued.
* We will bring the letter to CSP to review once we are finished.
* Left off with elections.
* Got an email from Kathy Mitchell with feedback she is the only one I got feedback from.
* Virtual considerations?
* Tighten up the election section
* Anything in the best practices surrounding money and budget being extended so we have a plan in place for a situation like what we are going through right now.
* Situations like the virus depends on what the state says. Officially we still have to hear from the state in this situation.
* Have a point of contact for the state to streamline information distribution.
* Is there anything in the best practices for late elections?
* Need to have a plan in place when it happens late like now, and when someone steps down in middle of the year but no one wants to step up. What is the protocol for that? That has happened before. It stands that they finish their term at the end of the fiscal year like everyone else does.
* Maybe start in April so we don’t run into this issue again. April/May nominations and elections in June will give old leaders time to pass it over to new people.
* First meeting would be in July. Start of the fiscal year is July. The leaders would be starting at the end of the fiscal year.
* Add in mentorship/warm hand off to best practices guide so new people have 1 on 1 chance to learn about the leadership role.
* Maybe we will plan leadership retreat around election time so new folks can learn more about CSP and role.
* Please send your feedback to Kim!
* Financially, yes we are dealing with new stuff from COVID-19, but in the past 2 years we have had to wait for the budget to be approved. Can we add something in best practices to figure out what to do with the money while we are waiting to find out from OMHSAS. When we do not have the funds set aside from OMHSAS Hopeworx has been fronting the money to us for this time. We set the budget up through various categories based on what we got in the past ($10,000) if something happens where we have less money we adjust down on everything and revisit the categories.
* Now Hopeworx cannot front the money because we do not have the finances. Money is still out of budget with a 0 interest loan that was paid back. With the current situation Hopeworx is not able to assist with any money right now because we can’t afford not to get paid back, and we are on a freeze as far as the money goes right now.
* Is it worth it to create a plan on what we would spend the money on if it becomes available?
* We do not have a new logo. We came up with a state wide CSP logo with a lot of help from JT and the committee, but then said they were in agreement with the current one and forgot about it so they are not planning on changing it.
* Use statewide logo for the front, there should be a section on the logo that local CSP can vote on and create their own logo.
* Did they ever change their name?
* Meeting on August 25th from 10-12,1-3. The deputy secretary was there. She didn’t know what was going to be in store for the future for this fiscal year.
* Did take a survey at end of meeting to find out if people liked it all 1 day, people did.
* Next OMHSAS meeting will be December 15th (10-3) and it will be another all-day event. Save the date because there could be a lot of news about what is going on fiscally.
* Discussion in the adult committee of the OMSHAS meeting about peer specialist training and making them virtual, but there might not be anything until January.
* Pennsylvania cert program does not want to approve peer support if it is done virtually, contact sean brinda about partnering and getting enough voices together to get a virtual peer support training.
* Alternate payment arrangements put in place for emergency declaration that allow for Medicaid insurance for telehealth even though regulations weren’t in place for that yet, telehealth will continue as long as there is a state of emergency but might expire in November. Same answers, they don’t know.

Bucks County NAMI:* Support groups have exploded in NAMI Bucks, support groups lead by people of color, support group for educators, and all traditional support groups. They are available virtually.
* Out of the Darkness event is happening
* Hope is not canceled walk is happening.
* Sunday October 4th is a car event.
* Nov 7th TBD virtual bucks county suicide prevention task force recognize and give awards to advocates.

Bucks County CSP:* Focusing on the biggest change we have ever gone through, having a conversation about having 1 shared virtual meeting during the time of COVID-19. We have similar experience in needing to push back our elections.
* Looking at a technology grant. Working on a draft for a technology grant. Pairing mentorship with it, so once you have the device pairing it with someone to teach them, we are offering a stipend.
* Supporting local business that may be struggling right now. Focus on supporting diversity.

Lower bucks:* Developing a checklist for people reentering the community.
* Planning for discharge during the admission so you are working on this checklist all throughout the process from time of admission and not just discharge.
* Next meeting is October 5th.
* Email Kim with suggestions for the best practices guide.
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