



Work Group Meeting Notes May 4, 2022: 3:00-4:30 PM

Attendees: Timothy Ranney-Blake, Elizabeth Quirk, Kena Vescovi, Amy Timmins, Jen Audley

Regrets: Sandi Walters, Amanda Mankowsky, Kemah Wilson, Phoebe Walker

1. Introductions, Announcements, and Recommendations

What's a local program, service, or resource you recommend as a way to strengthen social connectedness?

- Stone Soup Cafe - Saturday meals, volunteering, and [the new Culinary Institute](#)
- Lifepath's [Healthy Living Workshops](#), which are intended for people who are living with chronic health conditions
- Valuing Our Children's [grandparents' group](#), which has thrived through the pandemic, unlike many other parent/caregiver support groups

Other news:

- Timothy reported hearing that the Greenfield detox center (run by BHN) was no longer admitting men, perhaps due to staffing shortages. Male-identified people seeking this service are being directed to Hampden County.

2. eCPR update and next steps

- ★ CHIP sponsored a first cohort of 8 people who completed the 12-hour training in January – they gathered in March, meeting again next week, May 10
- ★ Community Action Youth Programs is sponsoring training in May/June for staff & an initial cohort of youth (with support from CTC)
- ★ Conversations are happening about eCPR in schools, eCPR for parents/guardians, etc

3. Opportunities:

- ★ **Help develop and host an introductory “What is eCPR?” workshop** to be offered during the summer. (Hoping to announce workshop date at June 8 CHIP Network meeting.) Talk with Timothy - timrblake@yahoo.com - if you are interested!
- ★ CHIP may have funds to support a few more individuals who want to **take the eCPR course online**. Contact Jen if you are interested!
- ★ The research team for the Baystate Franklin Medical Center CHNA (Community Health Needs Assessment) is **seeking people who have experience with local mental health resources to interview** in late May/early June. They are particularly interested in talking with people who have stayed (or been held) overnight in a crisis or respite situation. These will be one-on-one conversations on the phone or Zoom for about an hour with an outside consultant, and interviewees will be offered a \$50 gift card for their time. The information gathered from these interviews will inform the 2022 CHNA report, but individual details will be anonymized. If you or someone you know would like to be interviewed, the person to contact is Suzanne Rataj - srataj@umass.edu There are a limited number of interview slots available.
- ★ **CHIP Network meeting on June 8, 3-4:30PM will feature this work group and focus on peer support** – probably structured similarly to the [April 6 Network meeting](#) which focused on food justice: some definitions of key terms, some local examples, some opportunities for action. Announcements/invite to come soon, but if you’d like to RSVP now you can here: <https://forms.gle/6M3T5cZMg4RN91AaA> If you would like to be involved in planning or presenting at this meeting, contact Jen Audley - jaudley@frcog.org
 - Amy Timmins noted that she has interviewed peer specialists as a part of her work at ServiceNet and shared thoughts about insights she’d gained from that. She also noted that non-profit and other independent agencies are not paying direct care staff what they can make if they work for state agencies.
 - Timothy remarked that requirements for certification / licensure of Recovery Coaches may be creating problems, even though they were intended to help.

4. **Group input on work group name, including members’ names on webpage, October meeting date**

- Those present agreed that “Mental Wellness” is an acceptable shorthand name for the group
- Those present felt positive about naming people who have been actively involved in the work group on its [webpage](#). (Webpage is a work-in-progress, will be in better shape by June 1!)
- We changed the next meeting date for this group to October 12.

CHIP 2021-23 WORK GROUP GOAL: Increase individual and collective resiliency by building the capacity of peers and community-based groups to strengthen social connectedness for those experiencing depression and/or anxiety

CO-CHAIRS: Timothy Ranney-Blake and Sandi Walters

CHIP-led work on this strand in 2022 will include:

- Three meetings of the full group: January 26, May 4 and Oct 12
- Working Group members learn about local resources for support and connection and share that info with community members.

- CHIP coordinator and co-chairs select a few peer-led and community-based organizations to partner with more closely and work with them to define activities.
- The first cohort of Franklin County/North Quabbin eCPR practitioners will form an ongoing learning/support community and lead the way on next steps for bringing eCPR to our region.