

Community Advocacy Network



C.A.N.

Dave Turner and Nancy Colby: Chair Folks Minutes of Meeting –September 23, 2021

Present: David Turner, Scott MacKenzie, Connie Stabler, Valerie Koropatnick, Lisa Martiny, Delaina Norton, Cathie Buscaglia, and Elaine Soto

Program Updates:

Westview: Valerie reported that it was a good summer with strong attendance and fun events such as a mini-gold trip and Friends and Family BBQ. She noted that we have a new Odd Jobs Coordinator in Alex Siegel.

Career Connections: Elaine reported for Marlene that the program had 15 new job starts between April and September in a variety of roles and businesses. She noted an education celebration of a client who received her BA in legal studies from Champlain College in May and recently accepted a full-time job as a legal assistant at a local law firm. Also, a benefits counselor update: Voc Rehab offered us a 2-year grant to have a full-time position that would be shared with 3 other designated agencies. In year 3, the 4 agencies would fund the position. We have a strong candidate for the position.

Case Management and Residential: Elaine noted that we have a couple of case management vacancies but are also closing in on two new hires. We also have a team coordinator position open. In residential, we continue to follow all COVID protocols.

Board of Trustees: Connie reported that her term is up in November. Also, the Board postponed its annual meeting. She noted that the strategic plan is in place. Also, succession planning of senior leaders is just starting to be worked on. Connie shared that the Board is aware of the staffing challenges.

NAMI VT: The annual NAMI Walk is scheduled for October 9 at noon starting from the Unitarian Church in Burlington. Connie noted that it is a consciousness raiser as well as a fundraiser. David noted that the NAMI Connection group continues on-line but they remain hopeful that it will resume in person in the near future. Connie reported that NAMI's support and education groups have continued over Zoom and have been well attended.

Agenda:

Lakeview New Location Project

Cathie Buscaglia informed the group that the Agency has identified a property in Shelburne to build a new home for the Lakeview program. We have a builder and have gone to the Development and Review Board. We now need a Certificate of Approval from the state. Cathie answered questions about the size of the building (8000 sq.ft), concerns about the location in terms of being on a busy road. A couple of members emphasized the importance of it being homey and warm and not institutional.

At the end of the discussion, there was support for the project but Connie noted that there were only 2 non-staff members present (David had to leave the meeting early) and she didn't think it made sense to take a vote with so few members. We agreed to hold an additional meeting to re-visit this issue. This will be on **Thursday, October 7 at 1:00PM at Westview House, 20 So. Willard St., Burlington outside in back.**

Minutes by E. Soto