

## Mental Health Resources Group June 22, 2021

6pm, at Church on the Common

*Draft*

**Present:** Deb McKinley, Monique Reil, Val Morrison, Susan Houston, Katherine Sims, Heather Legacy & Martha Braithwaite

From Before:

1. Partnering with NEKO (Northeast Kingdom Organizing

- a. Update on NEKO's efforts with Commissioner Squirrel and Northeast Kingdom Human Services.

Both Martha & Heather updated our group on their mission and how they started. The NEK Health Services corrective action plan expires on August 11<sup>th</sup>. They felt that although NEK Health services has made progress to address their paperwork and work environment issues, they haven't addressed providing adequate access to care, which is the motivation for their petition.

Katherine will email NEKO specific state government committee people that the NEKO could contact.

- b. How can CMHRG participate?

The CMHRG members signed their petition. Deb will take it to the East Craftsbury Church to get more signatures. Because they need the signatures by Sunday, there wasn't really enough time to get something quickly on FPF.

2. Booklet updates

Michelle asked to get the updates to her, still waiting for a few town updates.

3. Katherine Sims

Katherine gave us an update on steps the State government is doing for mental health. They are also looking into the community schools model, in which services such as mental health, dentists, etc. are brought into the schools. She is hoping the grant process will be available soon.

New stuff:

1. Shall we organize an Out of Darkness Walk in Craftsbury again?

CMHRG decided to have the walk in Craftsbury again 1pm Sunday, Sept. 26<sup>th</sup> They decided to have the money go into their mental health fund this year instead of just ASFP. The group needs to find a reason for the fund. Michelle can set up an online gofund me type payment system. Maybe we can get T-shirts, food, etc. Michelle will contact Lisa Barry, to be part of the walk.

2. Shall we have a presence at the Farmer's Market?

Susan will work on a Farmer's Market presence. Tom Twetton has some nice chairs we can borrow, Monique has a tent. Deb will help as well. Michelle can bring up supplies.

3. Other ideas?

Susan suggested participating in the Old Home Day parade. The group decided just to have a banner, not a float. Michelle will work on some items to give away, like intention stones, brochures, etc.

Michelle is looking into a new program called REAL, for mental health. It offers reasonable annual fees, and can be done as a gift certificate

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 PM. Next meeting Tuesday, August 24<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm.