

Emergency Service Provider Wellness Commission

Meeting Minutes

Date: 9/22/2021

Location: Waterbury Complex: Cherry Conference Room

Start: 10:00

Members Present:

Len Howard, Bill Elwell, Mark McDonough, Stephanie Busch, Trevor Whipple, Cindy Lack, Peter Lynch, Seth Loomis, Lance Burnham, Lori Gurney, Barb Neal, Samantha Sweet, Emily Wilson, Emma Harrigan, Clarke Collins, Aaron Cochran

Public Present:

Beth Novotny, James Baker

- Welcome by Stephanie
- Introductions
- Setting Ground Rules
 - Meeting is open to the public and encouraged to attend.
 - See Stephanie's list.
 1. Take care yourself.
 2. This is a public discussion, not a debate.
 3. Everyone is encouraged to participate.
 4. One person speaks at a time.
 5. No one or two individuals should dominate a discussion.
 6. When you speak, state your name, and what sector you represent.
 7. Listen to and respect other points of view.
 8. State views and ask genuine questions.
 9. Focus on interests, not positions.
- Commission development and remarks from James Baker (10 mins)
 - Stay focused
 - Make legislation based on every responder needs.
 - No comments or questions from the group.
- Public Open Meeting Policies Review
 - Aaron- when there are situations where people come to speak to the group on issues with trauma, we need to use executive session.

- Brief Presentation: VT Emergency Service Providers and Mental Health/ Wellness (see attached PDF of the presentation).
 - The commission work needs to include / support families as we move forward.
- Review the charge of the Commission
 - Stephanie gave overview of the legislation.
 - All indicated that they had reviewed legislation.
 - Do we need to report to the legislature this year? All agree that we do meet with the legislature this year, but not necessarily ask for action.
 - Beth Novotny should be included in preparing for the legislature.
- Elect a chair and vice-chair
 - Trevor facilitated the election of officers
 - Pete moves that we hold elections at the first meeting of every calendar year.
 - Barb seconds the motion
 - It is voted favorably
 - Lance nominates Trevor and Trevor declines
 - Lance nominates Mark and he declines
 - Mark nominates Pete and he is voted in
 - Stephanie nominates herself
 - Pete nominates Mark
 - Stephanie is voted in
- Determine terms of Commission members (10 1 year, 10 2 years, remainder 3 years)
 - Mark proposes that each term be pulled from the hat and it voted in.
 - The terms are drawn randomly by group members and the term list is attached.
 - Pete asks for clarification about State assigned positions holding terms and Stephanie will talk to legal about it.
 - Trevor asks that terms begin on a calendar year and the group agreed
- Set future meeting schedule and select next meeting.
 - Stephanie will send out a poll to the group.
 - Mark would like to meet monthly until January.
 - Barb would like a virtual meeting choice.
 - Cindy would like every other meeting to be in person.
- Wrap-up
 - Cindy- Please send list of Commissioners to the group.
- End 11:42