

Member Services Committee Meeting, November 2, 2018, 9:30am

Discussion of Proposals for the Involvement of Persons Served in the Association's Decision Making

Multiple suggestions for discussion and consideration.

Bob stated that Malkia Newman introduced several ideas to incorporate consumer voices into the Executive Board. Her intent is to have the consumer needs heard and to have persons served more involved in the decision-making process of the Association. Joe Stone then reviewed a document that outlined a proposed Citizens Advisory Committee. This document explained that the committee would be strictly made up of primary and secondary consumer board members and would report to the Executive Board at each meeting, having a standing agenda item at those meetings. Wil suggested an anonymous survey to find out what the makeup of EB Board members are. Joe explained that Malkia knows there are consumer representatives on the Executive Board, but this is not enough. Lou stated that he has a concern with statements such as "We're not being heard" because everything we do is consumer oriented. Joe explained that this is more than that – they want to be more involved in the decisions and planning of Executive Board items. Group discussed possible ramifications of the formation of a committee comprised only of consumers. Group then discussed forming an Advisory Committee of Consumers that aren't part of current Boards, such as non-profit housing organizations. Group quickly decided this was NOT agreeable. Susan suggested the group table this until Malkia was available to answer questions about this formation. Bob explained that a formation of this advisory committee would be statewide and unique. The need for consumers to feel that they can speak freely in a setting of their peers is the goal. Bob stated that he could discuss recommendations from today with Malkia and have her come to the meeting to have further discussions. Group continued to discuss. Wil again suggested that a survey be done to find out who is a primary or secondary consumer. Lou suggested that, given our mission, we should consider if the proposed action brings value to the mission of our association. Joe again stated that this committee deserved consideration. Cathy Meske stated that a group should be formed to work out details of this committee and should include Executive Board members. She also stated that an EB member who is not a primary or secondary consumer be involved in the committee and beyond. Lou stated that if a committee of this nature is formed, and a recommendation is brought to the Executive Board and rejected, this could bring about some ill feelings. Group discussed the deep concern for consumers who feel they are not part of the entire process and they should be. Bob stated that this group may be formed for a place for consumers to talk, not necessarily propose ideas. He stated that they could report to Legislation & Policy as opposed to EB. Group discussed logistics of including some primary consumers regarding what their needs may be such as lack of email, need to go to their local CMH for webinar access, etc. Lou suggested that we should take recommendation to table this topic to the next meeting in January 2019, when Malkia could join us.

Group voted to form a subgroup to work on criteria for creating a Citizens Advisory Committee.

Bob Sheehan will send thoughts/recommendations from this discussion to Malkia to begin the process.

Bob continued to review the document distributed to the group. He would not recommend the formation of any of the sub-committees suggested and would change the reporting of any formed advisory committee from the EB to report to the Legislation & Policy Committee.

Bob also stated he would not recommend re-convening the cultural competency group either, but that Ad-Hoc type committees could always be formed. Group agreed by consensus.

Summary of Recent Member Services Changes

Election Procedures

Bob spoke about the recently accepted procedure changes. Lou stated that these changes need to be widely distributed. Monique explained that the reminders for this would be sent approximately 4 weeks prior to each conference in 2019. Lou stated that it needed to be sent out in the first "Weekly Update" in January to reach people quicker. Bob Sheehan will send in the first edition in 2019.

Ideas to support new legislators (added to agenda by Jan Plas)

Jan stated that he felt a point made at the October Executive Board regarding Board Members joining to meet with legislators should be discussed. He stated that Bob and Alan will be putting in a lot of effort to educate incoming legislation, and Jan offered to be involved in the formation to start a program laying out the procedures of how to accomplish this. Bob stated that he would like to see the Board Members who are from the new legislators' district be the ones to join in those meetings. Jan agreed. Bob stated that once the committee assignments are made in January, this would be a great program. Bob suggested that we add a legislative breakfast set up as well. Jan stated that there needs to be a process established first. Group agreed by consensus.

Lou then spoke about the legalization of recreational marijuana. He felt that Administration needs to be talking with the Substance Abuse folks to prepare for the legalization of this.

Member Assembly

Bob stated that he will be sending reminders on the changes to the number of Member Assembly meetings along with the reminders on Election Procedure changes at the same time – prior to each conference and in the Weekly Update in the beginning of 2019.

The next meeting of the Member Services Committee is scheduled for Thursday, January 17, 2018, 9:30am, at the CMHAM Office.

Meeting adjourned at 10:55am.