

Member Services Committee Meeting, January 17, 2019, 9:30am

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

Citizen's Advisory Committee formation – Guest: Malkia Newman (Oakland)

Bob Sheehan reviewed the details of the proposed formation of the Citizen's Advisory Committee. He stated that the idea of forming this CAC was brought forth by Malkia Newman in the interests of having a stronger voice for persons served in the Executive Board meetings. He stated that this formation would not be to replace any member or part of the current Executive Board. This group would meet quarterly or bi-monthly and would report to Legislation Committee or the Executive Board directly.

Malkia Newman addressed the group, stating that she felt primary consumers do not have a strong enough voice in the Association meetings. She stated she currently is an Oakland Board Member and employed at a Peer-Run agency. She said that since 298 came about, the focus seems to have shifted to saving the public system and has lost the voice of those served. She stated that lived experience is vital input for policies that are being discussed and formed at the State level. She stated that at some Association meetings, speaking up as a person served can be scary and intimidating. Malkia felt that having a voice to share the ideas and needs of those served was more important than ever at the Association meetings. She asked if the group had any questions. Group asked about the makeup of CMH Boards, specifically how many Board members were primary and secondary consumers. Malkia stated that in presenting Boardworks, she has heard from Consumers that they were not allowed to vote or speak at Board meetings and felt as though they were "window dressings". She stated she was on the Behavioral Health Advisory Committee, and many times they simply followed a checklist, with no input from consumers taken into consideration. Chair Burdi stated that as the Chair of this Committee, he felt he needed to point out that any Consumer Board Member has a vote, and with no offense, stated that he felt that vote would be recorded. Malkia stated that she understood, and she wanted to clarify that when items are brought to the BHAC, they are already in stone, and the input provided by the persons served is moot. Jan Plas wondered how involved some consumers could be in this role due to the level of their abilities/disabilities. Group also agreed with Malkia that many consumers are too intimidated to offer input.

Discussion ensued regarding how the reports come to Board Members, and that they are more administrative in nature, and not geared toward the consumer being able to absorb this information. Suggestion was made that an advocate take those administrative reports and transform them into a "how does this affect us?" type of document. Chair Burdi stated that if the consideration of a Citizen's Advisory Committee is what the Member Services Committee was considering, he would be in support of establishing details to form that. Linda Busch stated that it would also be important that the committee to whom this CAC reports provide a response to the CAC's input. Group discussed and agreed that the formation of a CAC – and subsequent reporting to a to-be-determined committee – was a welcome idea, even more so to have a recognized voice within MDHHS. Malkia stated that the Department would probably argue that consumers DO have a voice through the BHAC, but that it was more ceremonial than anything else, so this conduit to be heard and have more representation could only help. She stated that the details needed to be worked on for membership, who they would report to, and frequency of meetings, and this could be discussed. Chair Burdi again suggested that the discussion be reined in to focus on what the proposed formation of the Citizen's Advisory Committee would be. Group suggested that a poll be sent out to see how many primary and secondary consumers were on the Executive Board. Group also suggested getting consumer input from each CMH sent to the Association. Bob Sheehan stated that the input on local levels should remain there and the Association should not be involved in that. He stated that the Association needs to remain focused on state level issues, and that input from this proposed CAC that would help address state level issues. Group expressed concern for the possibility of input that could be in opposition with advocates position on issues, and also that this group could become a "token" committee. Group then discussed the fact that primary and secondary consumers do not always identify as such, and the stigma attached with this could affect any poll that may be sent out.

Group voted to form a Citizen's Advisory Committee, to be formed by the Association with guidance from Malkia Newman, and details of membership, reporting and frequency of meetings to be agreed upon by the Association with guidance from Ms. Newman. This group's formation would be brought to the Executive Board for approval.

Chair Burdi pointed out that the Svetcos motion stated the Association would work with Malkia. Group discussed and concluded that "Association" implied Bob Sheehan would work with Malkia on the details of who the membership would be, as well as Meeting Frequency and who they would report to.

Group then voted to amend the Svetcos motion to have Member Services approve the details of the Citizen's Advisory Committee's formation prior to being brought to Executive Board.

Group requested that this topic be added to the March Member Services agenda, and that the handouts for that meeting include the work done on this group's formation, including details of membership, etc.

Boardworks: Overview of Michigan's PIHPs (Proposal for Consideration) – Bob Sheehan

Bob Sheehan spoke about the previous Boardworks Pilot workshop that Mike McCartan and Dave Schneider did in 2016 on what PIHPs are and what they do. Bob asked if a newly formed PIHP workshop should be a Boardworks module or a workshop only that is not related to the Boardworks program. Group wondered if this would affect the current Boardworks certification. Bob stated no. Wil Morris stated that with the 298 proposed pilot sites, he felt uncomfortable with this being a Boardworks module. Clint stated that most persons served would come away from this workshop wondering how this pertains to me. He felt "how this pertains to persons served" should be added. Susan felt that this should stay a workshop only and doesn't need to be a Boardworks module. Bob stated that he will let Chris know that this workshop will not be added as a Boardworks module. Jan stated that in the past, Board Member Forums

were used for the Association by going to different Regions in the State to give updates on many things, including PIHPs – who they are and what they do. Bob reminded the group that this was discussed last year in Member Services, and with the declining participation at these Forums, the group decided that Regions would coordinate their own individual Forums, and that any regions who sponsored their own meetings of this such, would be attended by Alan/Bob, and reports would be given on any topic requested by that Region. Lou suggested that Bob look into the Association coordinating these Forums.

Program to support new legislators. – Added by Jan Plas

Jan stated that at the last meeting the group discussed waiting to have this discussion until after appointments of Legislators were finalized. Alan stated that he has looked into doing a type of “Hill Day” in Lansing but stated that there would need to be a firm commitment of how many folks would be willing to come to Lansing to attend. He stated that the coordination of members going to their correct Legislators would be important. He stated that another option would be to have local meetings in perspective Regions with their local legislators. This would likely be far more effective, and Alan would be willing to help coordinate these and attend them as well. He stated that he has been setting meetings with key legislators of our funding and policy issues, to introduce the Association to them and get them familiar with who we are and what we do. Jan stated that in the past, we had a Legislative conference but that it was not well attended by Legislators. Cathy stated that they host Legislative breakfasts and these Breakfasts work well for them. Jan stated that his point was that in his area, they don’t have Legislators who affect issues pertaining to the public mental health system, so he would need to come to Lansing to meeting with someone where it matters. Alan stated that he can create a list of who members should be meeting with, and he can let members know when he has scheduled meetings with certain folks.

The next meeting of the Member Services Committee is scheduled for Thursday, March 21, 2019, 9:30am, at the CMHAM Office.

Meeting adjourned at 11:18am.