



CCSM Issues Development Committee First Draft 4-2021

Lack of Equitable Access to Mental Health Peer Recovery Centers Across the State of Maine

The Issue:

Currently there are 11 mental health peer recovery centers in Maine. They are located in only 7 of the 16 counties in the State. Less than 50%! We want to see this expand into more counties in Maine for people to gain access to one of the most important no-cost to the individual low barrier services we offer to our fellow peers. These vital services decrease isolation, increase skills, and promote recovery of all kinds.

Recommendations:

1. To have at least one mental health peer recovery center in each county of the State.
 2. Bring awareness of the mental health peer recovery centers through education and promotion on a regular basis. It is good to promote choices but there are not enough mental health recovery peer centers currently in the State to provide different kinds of recovery choices for everyone.
 3. Research funding streams from nonprofit and private sector organizations that support this cause. Potentially request an increase in mental health block grant funds be used to support additional mental health peer recovery centers.
 4. Research transportation options to and from mental health peer recovery centers.
 5. CCSM will contact mental health peer recovery centers. They will inquire if they
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have members who would be willing to share their oral/written story regarding how the centers have assisted them with their recovery.

6. CCSM shall look for an ambassador from the peer community to assist with a public education campaign and discuss the benefits of mental health peer recovery centers and the vital role they can play in someone's recovery journey. OBH should consider this as important public education campaign tool to fund in the future.

Expected Outcomes:

To have at least one mental health peer recovery center in every county in the State. This would allow more individuals to have access to mental health peer recovery centers throughout the State, particularly in rural areas. We want to find innovative ways to better support mental health peer centers in the areas of funding sources, public awareness to the broader community and transportation resources.

We would like to hear from you!

To submit feedback, ideas or a personal story relating to this issue statement, please send to the CCSM either by mail at: 219 Capitol St. Suite 7 Augusta, ME 04330 or email at vmccarty@maineccsm.org

DEADLINE TO RESPOND July 14, 2021
