



CCSM Issues Development Committee Second Draft 6-2021

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 in only 7 of the 16 counties in the State. Less than 50%! We want to see this expand into more counties in Maine. In order 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. OBH in collaboration with MAPSRC and CCSM to develop a public education campaign; recruiting ambassadors to bring awareness of the mental health peer recovery centers. 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. Peer recovery centers play a vital role in peers lives and in moving forward in their journey.
 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. Potentially consider small micro-grants from OBH to small rural areas that want to begin to meet and form a peer recovery center.
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4. Research transportation options to and from mental health peer recovery centers. As a non-billable service, the MaineCare non-emergency transportation system is not an option for peers. This may be a collaborative project with the Dept. of Transportation.
5. CCSM will contact mental health peer recovery centers to inquire whether they have members who would be willing to share their oral/written story regarding how the centers have assisted them with their recovery. This could dovetail with the public education campaign to bring awareness to the value of centers.

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: August 9, 2021

Thank you.