



**Mission Statement:** The Consumer Council System of Maine represents fellow consumers with an effective, organized voice in shaping public policy and mental health services. We hold as essential the participation of all consumers and look to collaborate with allies to find realistic solutions to local and statewide issues and to advance recovery-oriented, consumer-driven mental health care and peer-run recovery opportunities.

**Farmington Local Council Agenda**  
**5/16/2023 1:00 - 3:00 pm**  
**Meeting Held at Farmington Library**  
**and via Zoom Video Conferencing**  
**Zoom Information**

To join by video, click the link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8938611710>

To join by phone only (no computer needed) Dial: 1-929- 205-6099

**Enter Webinar / Meeting ID# when prompted: ID #893 861 1710**

<b>1.</b>	<b><u>Welcome, Introductions, Attendance &amp; Review Meeting</u></b> <b><u>Guidelines</u></b> <b>A) Check-In &amp; Ice Breaker B) Zoom Etiquette C) Establish Quorum</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b><u>Review &amp; Adopt Meeting Agenda &amp; Previous Meeting's Minutes:</u></b> Vote Needed <b>A) Review and adopt the current meeting agenda.</b> <b>B) Review and adopt <b>April</b> meeting minutes.</b>
<b>3.</b>	<b><u>Discuss Current Local Issues Statement Work:</u></b> <b>A. Issue Statement Work Discussion</b> a. Preparing People with Mental Health Struggles to Function in a Home Effectively, concept draft.
<b>4.</b>	<b><u>CCSM Meeting Reports</u></b> No Vote <b>A. SCC Meeting Next Mtg (SCC Work Group topic: outreach). 5/26/2023</b> <b>B. Issues Subcommittee Meeting Next Mtg. 6/14/2023</b> <b>C. Legislative Subcommittee Meeting Next Mtg. 6/7/2023</b> a. Legislative Testimony Writing Support Groups w/ Vickie McCarty EVERY Monday via Zoom from 1-3 pm. b. LD540 postcard writing activity – Legislator info and talking points provided.



<b>6.</b>	<p><b><u>Follow-Up Business:</u></b></p> <p>A. Legislators meet and greet plan          B. Local issue statement(s)</p>
<b>7.</b>	<p><b><u>New Business:</u></b></p> <p>A. Rights of Recipients</p>

<b>8.</b>	<p><b><u>Future Agenda Items:</u></b></p>
<b>9.</b>	<p><b><u>Community Updates and Announcements:</u></b></p> <p>A. The Hope Conference will be held at the Augusta Civic Center on May 17, 2023          B. Disability Pride Day on July 21, 2023!</p>

<b>10. <u>Meeting Recap &amp; Task List</u></b>	<b><u>Who?</u></b>	<b><u>When?</u></b>
<u>Pre-read all meeting materials</u> and attend next month's LC Meeting	All	Monthly
Submit agenda items to the Outreach Coordinator for the <b>June</b> Agenda to be included in <b>June</b> Packets	Chair	<b>June 8th</b>
Complete & submit <b>May</b> Meeting Minutes to the Outreach Coordinator to be included in <b>June</b> Packets	Secretary	<b>May 23rd</b>

<b>11.</b>	<p><b><u>Meeting Evaluation:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>What went well?</b></li>   <li>● <b>How can we improve our meetings?</b></li> </ul>
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<b>12.</b>	<p><b><u>Meeting Wrap-Up</u></b></p> <p><b>Next Meeting: June 20th, 2023</b></p>
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## Farmington Local Council Meeting Minutes

April 18, 2023

<p><b>1</b> April chaired the meeting. Ash recorded minutes. Quorum: <u>Yes</u> <b>Attendees:</b> April, Jeff, Jan, John, Elena (@ 1:50pm) <b>Staff:</b> Ash Hebert No guest.</p>
<p><b>2</b> A) Review and adopt the <b>current</b> meeting agenda: a. John motioned; Jeff seconded. No disc. Vote: 4-0-1. B) Review and adopt <b>March 2023</b> meeting minutes: a. Jeff motioned; John seconded. Disc: the date should be corrected to “March 2023,” not “December 2022”. Vote 3-0-2.</p>
<p><b>3</b> <u>Issues Development Subcommittee Update:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Discussion about knowing the resources around Franklin County.<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Kobi from Western Maine Community Action joined us last month and shared many resources.</li></ol></li><li>2. Discussion regarding issues in Franklin County.<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Housing shortage in Farmington and college dorms. Dorms may need upgrades, but a major donor would be necessary. Maybe the Bjorn family? Do people in the community know the scope of this issue?<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>i. Ash shared the Auburn Housing Symposium – could Farmington pull together something similar?<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Update from convo with the United Way: they are still working closely with food security due to their grant.</li><li>2. Follow up steps: Ash and Jan will reach out to UMF staff they know. Maybe Joe knows a few students who can share their perspectives?</li></ol></li></ol></li></ol></li></ol>



- b. The group discussed the Local Issue statement “Preparing People with Mental Health Struggles to function in a home effectively concept draft.

**ISSUE:** In the Farmington area and beyond, availability of permanent stable housing and related services remains critically low. People who qualify for housing assistance, whether they experience mental health challenges or not, may need supportive services such as housing/resource navigation and case management. Additionally, people who experience/are diagnosed with mental health challenges are incarcerated and jailed at much higher rates than people who may not experience mental health challenges or carry a mental health diagnosis. On the staffing side, burnout continues.

**SUGGESTIONS:** Given current service gaps, it could be helpful to offer additional case management, resource navigation, and re-entry services in Franklin County. Potentially offering similar housing/resource navigation through positions such as recovery specialists, peer support coordinators, alongside case managers.

**RESOURCES:** Some educational resources exist and are offered by shelters and/or community action programs on a limited basis. One example is RentSmart, a module-based curriculum that guides renters to learn about their housing rights, laws, tenant and landlord responsibilities, as well as additional housing/rental resources. Once someone completes this course, they receive a paper certificate that can be added to future rental applications. There is also an annual county-specific Community Needs Assessment that can be evaluated through Western Maine Community Action Program to address gaps such as mental health and housing.

**4 CCSM Meeting Reports:**

- A.** SCC: The SCC will meet again on April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023, via Zoom and in Augusta. The Board Work Group met on March 28 to write thank you postcards to legislators from the Hall of Flags event. A few members studied LD540 and wrote testimony in support of the bill, while others wrote postcards to legislators asking them to vote NO on LD445. Finally, one peer assisted in creating many buttons for the Hope Conference.
- B.** Issues Subcommittee Meeting - second Wednesday of the month.
  - a. The Farmington Local Council’s packet mailing date occurs just before the monthly issue statement subcommittee call. Ash will send



	<p>new issues updates with the Farmington Local reminder email and print copies for physical meetings.</p> <p>b. The Parity of MH and SUD Peer Support Centers is on pause until after peer center requests for proposal application results are posted.</p> <p><b>C. Legislative Subcommittee Meeting – first Wednesday of the month.</b></p> <p>a. The Legislative writing group is every Monday on zoom from 1-3pm.</p> <p>b. Board of Visitors bill!</p> <p>c. Updates on LD540, postcards</p> <p>d. <b>Upcoming:</b> Rights of Recipients (look at wording, State is looking to revise it with peer input this year)</p>						
5	<p><b><u>Outreach:</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Daily Bulldog, Mt. Blue TV, WKDJ -&gt; radio community call-in</li> <li>2. Safe Voices</li> <li>3. Ash hung flyers around Farmington; Youth Leadership Action Team (YLAT)</li> <li>4. To be rescheduled: Western Maine Behavioral Health</li> </ol>						
6	<p><b><u>Follow-Up Business:</u></b> None.</p>						
7	<p><b><u>New Business:</u></b> None.</p>						
8	<p><b><u>Future Agenda Items</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Finalize issue statement, start new one on housing.</li> <li>B. Rights of Recipients conversation</li> <li>C. Potential guests: Region Hub coordinator from Wilton? UMF staff?</li> </ol>						
9	<p><b><u>Community Updates and Announcements:</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Hope Conference will be held at the Augusta Civic Center on May 17<sup>th</sup>.</li> <li>B. Disability Pride Day on July 21st!</li> </ol>						
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11	<p><b>A. What went well today? <i>We had a quorum!</i></b></p> <p><b>B. How can we improve our business meetings?</b></p> <p><b>Next meeting date: May 16, 2023</b></p>						