



Issues Development Subcommittee Final Board Approved 11-17-2023

Dedicated Mental Health (MH) Peer Services Funding Needs to Stay in MH Peer Services

Issue:

The CCSM recently learned about the fact that when the Waterville MH Peer Recovery Center (contract was held by NAMI ME) closed, the monies were not reallocated for peer services. There are so few dedicated dollars for peer services in the mental health community that we are concerned that what little we have should stay in our community to pay for needed mental health peer centers/services.

Recommendations:

1. A protocol needs to be developed within OBH that if a MH state funded peer service(s) closes or is underspent in any way that those funds need to be reallocated to other MH peer recovery centers/services. This process needs to be transparent to the entire community. The CCSM would be more than willing to offer guidance as needed.
2. If allowed, programs would be able to carry over funds into the next fiscal year.

Expected Outcomes:

We desperately need to increase our MH peer recovery funds and not decrease them for ANY reason. We want everyone in the State of Maine to be able to access these services no matter where they live. Let us continue to work together to GROW the funds for these services and no longer decrease what is available to fund these critical programs for our fellow peers.