



Membership & Awareness Committee
July 15, 2020 Meeting Summary



Date: July 15, 2020
Location: Virtual Meeting **Time:** 11:21 a.m. – 12:14 p.m.
Attendance: MAC Members: Stephen Feathers, Carl Ferris, Corey Gerena, Clara O’Quinn
Public Participants: Melanie Alvarez, Debra Lombardo
CHPC Staff: Michael Nogelo

Meeting Accomplishments

1. The group approved the June 2020 MAC meeting summary.
2. The group planned the articles and possible authors for the September newsletter.
3. The group heard a report on the results of the mid-year mentoring program check-in process.
4. The group identified projected membership gaps and agreed upon member recruitment activities.
5. The group agreed to eliminate CHPC Youth Advisory Group graduates as a required membership category.

Identified Tasks

1. Staff will draft the July MAC meeting summary.
 2. Staff will connect with the identified newsletter article authors to pull together a draft of the September newsletter for review at MAC’s August meeting.
 3. Staff will reach out to new members who were not reached during the mentoring check-in.
 4. Staff will follow up with members whose first terms or second terms will expire at the end of 2020 to inquire about their intentions.
 5. Staff will reach out to several organizations in Fairfield County to recruit CHPC membership applicants.
 6. Melanie Alvarez will try to identify a Project TLC (Transitional Linkage to Community) staff member to apply for CHPC membership.
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A. WELCOME

Membership and Awareness Committee (MAC) co-chair Stephen Feathers called the meeting to order at 11:21 a.m. and welcomed committee members and guests. All participants introduced themselves.

B. JUNE MEETING SUMMARY

The group approved the June 2020 MAC meeting summary by consensus, based on a prior review.

C. PLAN SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

Mr. Feathers said MAC produces a newsletter three times each year, and said the group needed to plan the articles and possible authors for the September newsletter. Mr. Feathers urged the group to think



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about events that it could report on or preview, interesting topics, or individuals who might be willing to submit personal stories. The group agreed on the following articles and possible authors.

- CHPC Update (MAC staff)
- Department of Public Health (DPH) Corner (DPH staff)
- Karina Danvers career retrospective (Karina Danvers)
- Personal story about COVID-19-related anxiety (Corey Gerena)
- Department of Housing re-housing initiatives (Melanie Alvarez)
- Tips for coping with COVID-19-related stress (Rev. Alexander Garbera)
- Tips for staying safe and healthy during the pandemic (pull from May CHPC presentation)
- Harm reduction during COVID-19 (Stephen Feathers)
- Immune-boosting smoothie using fall farmers market fruits and veggies (MAC staff)
- CHPC member recruitment text box (MAC staff)

Mr. Feathers said Michael Nogelo would work with the identified authors to pull together a draft of the newsletter for review at the August MAC meeting.

D. MID-YEAR MENTORING CHECK-IN

Mr. Feathers stated that MAC runs a mentoring program that matches experienced CHPC members with new members. Mentors are expected to contact their mentees each month to offer support. The MAC co-chairs had attempted to contact mentors and new members to learn about unsuccessful mentoring matches in time to fix them. Mentors and new members were asked if contact was being made between the mentor and new member and if the new member seemed to be getting the support they need.

- Mr. Feathers reported that he had made contact with all mentors. All but one mentor said they were in regular contact with their mentees and that they felt their mentees were getting the support they needed. One mentor said he had reached out to his mentee but had not heard back.
- Clara O'Quinn said she had contacted one new member, who felt they were receiving the needed support.
- Corey Gerena said his mentor was in regular contact with him via text and was helpful, but that he was not sure who his mentor was. The identity of his mentor was shared with him.
- Mr. Nogelo stated that he would reach out to new members who were not reached during the initial mentoring check-in process.



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E. MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Mr. Feathers reported that the CHPC Executive Committee accepted all of MAC's membership-related recommendations discussed at the June MAC meeting.

- Mr. Gerena said there should be no excuses for absences.
- Melanie Alvarez noted that some members face many challenges in their lives that may prevent regular attendance.
- Mr. Nogelo added that child care and low English fluency represent COVID-specific or virtual-meeting-specific barriers to participation.
- Mr. Feathers reminded the group that it has agreed in June not to count absences for the duration of 2020, but to reinstate participation requirements in 2021.

Mr. Feathers stated that staff had notified six CHPC members whose second terms will end at the end of the year that they must re-apply if they want to continue as members.

- Mr. Nogelo said that two of these members had stated their intention to re-apply, one is retiring but has identified a potential replacement to represent her agency (the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services), and three have yet to respond.

Mr. Feathers stated that staff also asked five members whose first terms will end at the end of the year if they want to continue for a second two-year term.

- Mr. Nogelo said three of these members have asked to renew for a second term and the two other members have yet to respond.

Mr. Feathers asked the group to review a diversity chart showing what the CHPC membership will look like after the members whose second terms end at the end of the year rotate off, and to talk about what member recruitment steps should be taken to try to fill the membership gaps.

- The group noted that a young person of color from Fairfield County would represent the "ideal" applicant from a demographic standpoint. Staff will contact Fairfield County agencies (e.g., Mid-Fairfield AIDS Project, APEX Community Care, Circle Care Center, GBAPP) to recruit applicants from these demographic categories.
- Mr. Nogelo said that several expiring members fulfilled required membership categories, and Mr. Nogelo has notified those expiring members that they, or one of their colleagues, should re-apply.
- Ms. Alvarez suggested recruiting a Community Health Center or Community Health Center Association of Connecticut representative to fit the Part C required category.
- Ms. Alvarez said she will try to identify a Project TLC staff member to apply for CHPC membership to fulfill the Department of Correction required category.
- The group agreed to eliminate CHPC Youth Advisory Group graduates as a required membership category, given that the Youth Advisory Group has not existed for several years.

F. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Feathers thanked everyone for their participation and adjourned the meeting at 12:14 p.m.