



Membership & Awareness Committee June 17, 2020 Meeting Summary



Date: June 17, 2020

Location: Virtual Meeting **Time:** 11:05 a.m. – 11:54 a.m.

Attendance: MAC Members: Stephen Feathers, Carl Ferris, Corey Gerena, Blaise Gilchrist, Clara O’Quinn

Public Participants: None

CHPC Staff: Michael Nogelo

Meeting Accomplishments

1. The group approved the May 2020 MAC meeting summary.
2. The group agreed to recommend to the CHPC Executive Committee that all eligible CHPC members should continue receiving stipends whether they are able to attend virtual CHPC meetings or not.
3. The group agreed by consensus to recommend to the Executive Committee that no changes be made to CHPC member terms.
4. The group agreed on several strategies for recruiting new CHPC members virtually.
5. The group agreed to recommend to the Executive Committee that attendance requirements be restored in 2021 after more accommodations to address barriers to participation have been established.

Identified Tasks

1. Staff will draft the June MAC meeting summary.
 2. MAC will contact CHPC members identified with barriers to participation in virtual CHPC meetings.
 3. MAC will conduct a mid-year check-in on mentoring relationships.
-

A. WELCOME

Membership and Awareness Committee (MAC) co-chair Stephen Feathers called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m. and welcomed committee members. Mr. Feathers asked participants to introduce themselves.

B. DISCUSS MEMBERSHIP QUESTIONS

Mr. Feathers asked the group to discuss whether the CHPC should continue to give stipends to eligible CHPC members whether they are able to attend virtual CHPC meetings or not.

- Blaise Gilchrist expressed support for giving stipends to eligible members even if they cannot attend virtual meetings due to barriers to attending virtual meetings that may not exist for in-person meetings.
- Carl Ferris expressed the importance of members making time to participate in meetings and noted that he reaches out to his mentee weekly, but agreed that the stipend should still be provided.
- Mr. Feathers stated that continuing to give stipends to all eligible members aligns with the decision to relax attendance requirements due to the barriers that exist for some members to participate virtually.



Membership & Awareness Committee June 17, 2020 Meeting Summary



- Michael Nogelo reported that CHPC staff has been reaching out to every member prior to each virtual meeting, and suggested that MAC could follow up with people identified with barriers to participation.
- The group agreed by consensus to recommend to the CHPC Executive Committee that all eligible CHPC members should continue receiving stipends whether they are able to attend virtual CHPC meetings or not.

Mr. Feathers asked if any changes should be made to CHPC member terms because of the changes to CHPC meetings, or if terms should expire as planned.

- The group agreed by consensus to recommend to the Executive Committee that no changes be made to CHPC member terms.

Mr. Feathers asked the group to think about strategies to recruit new members even while the CHPC is not having in-person meetings.

- Corey Gerena summarized some of the challenges to in-person recruiting, saying that he tries not to talk to people in public due to COVID concerns and that support groups in Waterbury are taking place by phone but have not been well-attended.
- Mr. Nogelo suggested that member recruitment messages be included in the September CHPC newsletter and posted on the CHPC website.
- Mr. Ferris said he participates in a weekly support group by phone and that roughly 10 people typically participate.
- Mr. Nogelo recommended reaching out to the New Haven MPowerment group highlighted in the June newsletter for continuing to connect with a large number of people virtually.
- Mr. Feathers noted that an application form cannot be added to the website because of confidentiality requirements, so staff could send candidates return-addressed envelopes with application forms.
- Mr. Feathers suggested encouraging case managers in areas with member shortages to talk with their clients about application opportunities.
- Mr. Nogelo recommended connecting with the New Haven capacity-building grant's planned August stakeholder summit.
- Mr. Feathers offered to reach out to Dante Gennaro to inquire about ways that Positive Prevention Connecticut could promote CHPC membership opportunities.

Mr. Feathers asked the group to discuss if it wanted to recommend any changes to the CHPC attendance policy this year because of the changes to the CHPC meeting schedule, and in future years if the CHPC still needs to have some virtual meetings.

- Mr. Gilchrist reported that CHPC leaders had agreed not to record formal absences for virtual meetings for the remainder of 2020, but Mr. Gilchrist recommended restoring attendance requirements in 2021 after more accommodations to address barriers to participation have been established.
- Mr. Ferris asked if other mentors have been in touch with their mentees.
- Mr. Nogelo responded that some mentors have been notifying him of their contact with their mentees, but that a mid-year check-in on mentoring relationships could occur prior to the July meeting.



Membership & Awareness Committee June 17, 2020 Meeting Summary



- Mr. Gerena expressed gratitude for his relationship with his mentor.
- Mr. Nogelo suggested that CHPC staff could check in with each member about their desire to continue as a member given any changes to the “fit” of CHPC membership due to meeting virtually. Mr. Nogelo emphasized that MAC does not make judgements about the legitimacy of members’ reasons for missing meetings.
- The group agreed by consensus to recommend to the Executive Committee that attendance requirements be restored in 2021 after more accommodations to address barriers to participation have been established.
- Mr. Ferris asked if the CHPC is likely to meet in person again in 2020. Several members said that, although they have not been involved in discussions about resuming in-person meetings, they are skeptical that the CHPC will resume in-person meetings in 2020.
- Mr. Ferris noted that attendance at the main CHPC meeting was lower in June than it was in May. The group agreed that virtual meeting attendance trends should be monitored.

C. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Feathers thanked everyone for their participation and adjourned the meeting at 11:54 a.m.