

Maine Recovery Council

November 14, 2024

Chair Pat Kimball opened the meeting with the announcement that this was the last meeting of the current Council. She expressed pride in the work that had been accomplished and recognized the five Council members leaving: Chief Eric Small, Myles Ouellette, Dr. Kinna Thakarar, Courtney Gary-Allen and Rep. Lydia Crafts. She thanked them for their service. Introductions were made around the table. The minutes were approved (Noddin/Tuell, 10-0).

The Council's Prevention Ad Hoc Committee's recommendations for prevention presentation and executive summary were adopted (Gary-Allen/Ouellette, 10-0). Liz Blackwell-Moore and her team were congratulated on their presentation.

Bylaw review was brief, the changes in the wording were straight-forward. Clarification of Section 4.7 regarding abstentions having no impact on yea or nay votes was made. The motion carried. (Everett/Brackett, 10-0). The by-laws do require one public hearing a year which will be held in December and be combined with the swearing in of the new and returning Council members. There will be a gap from Nov 21 to Dec 12 for Council membership. There was some discussion regarding the format, time and location. Logistical concerns were raised regarding contracts and needed signatures. In related decisions, the \$25,000 contract with Berry Dunn for their additional work was approved (Smith/Tuell, 11-0) and Sara Yasner's contract was amended to better define the executive coaching services she would be providing (Brackett/Smith, 11-0).

Grant scoring became the focus of the rest of the meeting. Mary thanked the Council members for their work and acknowledged it was quite a process. She reviewed the four tiers. The average score was 82. Tier 1 contained those applications with a score of 94-100. Tier 2 scores were 90-94 with a variance of less than 10, Tier 3 contained applications scoring 90-94 with a variance of more than 10. Tier 4 contained scored applications scoring below 90 but more than 82. Mary noted the applications contained in the four tiers totaled \$43 million.

The discussion was robust and wide-ranging. Council members were committed to distributing the funds. The overall application review did focus on some considerations such as geographic distribution of funds and the need of the funding. The available funding will not support all the applications, the suggestion was made to reduce each request by 20%. That idea did not get support. 23 Tier 1 applications were discussed, one-by-one. Duplicate projects would need a decision to fund only one.

A review process commenced with an eye to whether the application was addressing treatment, harm reduction or recovery and what area of the state was to be impacted by the services. Each application was considered. Finally, after considerable discussion and agreement to hold out three applications because of questions, the motion to approve was made to treatment applications in Tier 1 (Smith/Blackwell-Moore, 8-0-3) and recovery applications (Smith/Noddin, 7-0-4). Tier 2 applications will be considered at the next meeting.

Pat then reported that Health Equity Alliance had lost their certification and no contract had been signed. It was agreed (Smith/Small, 11- 0) that funds not be sent to them until they were again operating through an established entity and were again a certified site. Currently agencies in the Bangor area are picking up their services.

Prior to adjournment, Chasity made the observation that some counties were not in line for any funding (Washington, Aroostook) and that, while there were only a few applications from each county, several had received a score that put them on Tier 2 and 3.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:42 pm