

\*Not Approved by the Council\*

Maine Recovery Council

November 19, 2024

Chair Kimball opened the meeting. This is the last meeting of the current Council and we would be leaving the next Council with plans in place to move forward. She reviewed the Tier 1 work completed last week with an eye to the gaps still existing.

Mary reviewed the three applications that were held out from the past discussion: Maine General, Maine Health and Preble Street. Because Maine General has two certified syringe program sites already and received funds last December, it was decided to set the application aside and keep it on file. Nothing precluded a re-visit in January. Liz expressed a concern that this application for a mobile unit was needed in a place that could use a mobile unit. The Maine Health application raised concerns in terms of the requested funding. It was agreed to set this one aside for now as well. Preble Street's application now included their acquisition of Hope House in Bangor. Hope House had submitted a separate application. The decision for Tier 1 would stand based on last week's work.

Tier 2 applications were considered. Brendan asked if any Council members has conflicts. Courtney, Kinna and Chasity reported they did and put it on the record. Review of the applications began with approval of Healthy Acadia's recovery residence in Washington County (Vinsel/Gary-Allen, 13-0-1). Others on the list: Lifeline for Maine was approved (Gary-Allen/Vinsel, 13-0-1).

- Opiate Free Island Partnership including the condition that any funds go to a certified program (Smith/Ouellette, 12-0-2);
- Aroostook County Action Program (Smith/Vinsel, 13-0-1);
- Access Center/Project Doorstep (Smith/Vinsel, 10 – 0-4);
- Commonspace (Smith/Vinsel, 13-0-1);
- Cecil's Place was tabled (Smith/Ouellette, 13-0-1);
- Needlepoint (Smith/Vinsel, 13-0-1);
- Lakes Region Recovery Center approved with a reduction of funding to \$75,000 (Smith/Vinsel, 11-0-3);
- VOA Northern New England (Smith/Vinsel, 12-0-2)

The total for Tiers 1 and 2 - \$8,971,123.08

Gordon presented a proposal for Tiers 3, 4, and 5 applications in the remaining few minutes of the meeting. He and Courtney had designed a package that balanced the funding in the pillars and benefitted the entire state with a focus on special populations and spoken with Council members directly. Concerns were expressed but general agreement was reached that funding needed to get out the door, and this would get projects started. This package was true to the process and reflected the mission of the Council to evenly distribute the funding and illustrate the consistency used to choose the programs. Courtney presented the proposal:

Tier 3: Somerset County Jail, BARN, Portland Fire Department, MD3, Wabanaki Public Health and Central Maine Medical Center

Tier 4: St. Andre Home, Michael's Active Recovery, York County Government (reduced to \$300,000, ARPA funding), Maine Transgender Network

Tier 5: Access Direct Safespot, Northern Maine Wellness Clinic, Gateway Comm. Services

Gordon asked Ben if \$13.9 m could be released, Ben said he anticipated the need for additional funds and said it could be done. The package was approved (Smith/Small, 11-0-3). After appreciation for the work completed, the meeting was adjourned at 5:01 pm.

DRAFT