

Maine Recovery Council

December 12, 2024

The meeting was called to order by Interim Chair Pat Kimball. The first order of business was the swearing in of the Council for the next year. After welcoming new and returning members, she explained the process for the public portion of today's meeting. Introductions were made around the tables.

In order to proceed, motions were made:

"...with the purpose of ensuring that the Council can continue to conduct its business until its officers are elected at the Annual Meeting, in accordance with Section 5.3 of the bylaws which authorizes the election of officers to fill vacancies within the council, to elect the following members to serve as the interim officers of the Council: Pat Kimball as Chair, Bruce Noddin as Vice Chair, Betsy Fitzgerald as Secretary, Ben Mann as Treasurer, and Gordon Smith as a Member of the Executive Committee. These interim positions will expire on the date of the Annual Meeting" (Paul Vinsel, Rep. Holly Stover, 12-0).

"...only for the 2025 Annual Meeting, to shorten the 30-day timeframe in Section 6.4 of the bylaws and instead to require the Governance Committee to submit the slate of officer nominees to the Council as soon as practicable after its meeting and not later than the day prior to the annual Meeting" (Betsy Fitzgerald/Ben Mann, 12-0).

A request for Governance Committee members was made. The following volunteered: Betsy Fitzgerald, Joe Everett, Tess Parks, Gordon Smith and Pat Kimball.

Coordinator Mary Coyne was asked to provide an overview of the past two years' activities. Due to technical difficulties, her slides were not available. She summarized the funding sources and described some of the decisions that had been made regarding funding allocations to four pillars (treatment, harm reduction, recovery and prevention); the application process that included a letter of intent; and the focus on getting funding out into the programs in the state. She concluded her remarks with the next steps of getting contracts written, signed and executed.

The public portion of the meeting was then opened for comments. Eighteen people came to the microphone, Council members asked questions of some. At 12:20 the public comments had been heard. Chair Kimball then provided information for the Council. She acknowledged that the pace of releasing funds needed to be increased. Gordon Smith identified the need for more resources noting that the coordinator could not continue without assistance. Drafting contracts was not part of the coordinator's job description. Mary offered that she had job descriptions written for an assistant.

Other information presented:

In order to move Council business and the contracting process forward it was agreed that Council sub-committees would likely need to meet more often.

Liz Blackwell-Moore offered suggestions from the Prevention group she chaired: asking the John T. Gorman Foundation to come and talk about their funding awards process; transferring funds to the

Maine Prevention Network to further focus on 18/25 year olds; and providing technical assistance for future applicants.

Chair Kimball observed that the January and February meeting agendas were taking shape quickly.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 pm.