

Meeting conducted remotely using Zoom

Chair Pat Kimball opened the meeting and promised an ambitious agenda. She reminded Council members to have cameras, as well as microphones, operating when voting. Introductions were made around the screen. The meeting was then turned over to Liz Blackwell-Moore to introduce the Prevention Work Group presentation.

Liz began the presentation with some background information. She summarized the key risks of addiction and suggested a holistic approach to instituting community change. The strategy recommendations included a longer time period in which to spend funding, supporting the cultural relevance of strategies, collaboration and accessibility funding. Several speakers were part of the presentation. Brittany Chen and Ben Wood, from Health Resources in Action (HRiA) brought suggestions for capacity building and direct public health services. They described the Social Determinants of Health framework. There was some discussion as to what assistance HRiA could bring to the prevention pillar in terms of soliciting and supporting organizations to do this work. Melissa added that \$2 m or 50% of the set aside dollars and 3-5 years to use the funding was the recommendation.

There were two more goals to be addressed Liz said as she moved the discussion along. Jean Cousins and Jenn Beck from J. T. Gorman spoke in support of the two-generation approach. They described the McAuley Residence and Maine Moms programs. This goal's funding recommendation was \$1 m or 25% of the allocation with 2-3 years in which to use the funding. Goal #3 targeted 18-25 year olds. Megan Scott, the Substance Abuse Prevention Program Manager from Maine CDC, was present to describe the Maine Prevention Network. The funding recommendation was also \$1 m or 25% of the remaining allocation and 3 years in which to use it.

When the presentation concluded several Council members expressed appreciation for the work Liz and her group had done. Gordon said anything that took off work from the two staff members was a huge asset as each of the projects were labor intensive.

Moving on, the minutes were approved (Noddin/Smith, 14-0).

Mary presented several contract updates in the form of motions needing approval. Changes were needed to the planning grants for Franklin and Androscoggin counties. The amendment for Franklin County was approved (Smith/Fitzgerald, 14-0), Androscoggin County's contract was approved (Smith/Vinsel, 13-0-1). The Berry Dunn contract was amended to reflect the adjusted time frame and additional funds (Smith/Noddin, 14-0).

Mary also reported that Milestone's contract was finished and funds would be sent by mid-March. Thanks to Gordon for drafting the contract. The SSP contracts were all finalized and document executed thanks to the AG's office. Joe reported clarifications regarding the Preble St. and Hope House applications for funds had been received and he recommended funding at the requested amounts. The motion carried (Everett/Smith, 14-0).

Pat presented the Executive Committee report. She briefly explained the process for selecting the next coordinator and said the Committee was recommending Elizabeth Fortier for the position. Mary said it

was for a one-year contract at \$40.00/hour (max base of \$83,200) with a March 10 start date. The Council approved the hire (Vinsel/Stover, 13-0-1).

Paul Vinsel presented the Governance Committee report. He said the discussion had focused on public comment at MRC meetings and how that might be organized. He also mentioned a review of the by-laws and the annual public forum.

Mary said all the committee chairs had set meeting schedules, she would be sending out a calendar shortly. She then explained how the contracting process would proceed, Rider B conditions would be confirmed. She said grantees appreciated real time conversations as the process moved along. The AG's office is the third party to all the contracts which adds a layer of protections. Mary presented a powerpoint schedule:

- February: begin developing the scope of work and deliverables
- March/April: negotiate with the grantees to arrive at a final draft
- May/June: signatures –grantee, MRC Chair, AG
- 6-8 weeks from signed contract start date and payment

The contract review groups: A – Gordon, Pat, Melissa, Amber and B – Gordon, Pat, Liz, Chasity. Any other Council members are welcome to be part of the process. Mary also presented a slide showing the grant materials: application question, SMART goals, project activities and a budget and said any assistance would be appreciated.

Pat turned to a draft MRC policy dealing with urgent/time sensitive requests for 2024 applications that didn't quite get approval for funding. Gordon raised the Recovery High School in Fort Kent need for a commitment as space is being held and they need to start recruiting staff. There was discussion about a policy. A request would be stronger if three or more Council members were involved suggested Maggie. Pat noted funding can only be awarded if we have it. It was agreed to address a policy. Paul and Gordon have prepared a suggested petition for consideration at the next Council meeting. Several Council members expressed disappointment that this could not be resolved at this meeting. Pat reminded the Council that we have approved 45 projects. Chasity will chair the March meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 pm