**Participants:**

Barb Ginley, Jim Braddick, Ben Hummel, Linda Coleman, Deb Haln, Kara Hay, Lindsay Sanborn, Vicki Foster, Karen O’Rourke, Toho Soma, Dede Swan, Teresa Mudgett, Becka Matusovich , Katelyn Michaud, Zoe Miller, Sally Healy, Abdul Said

**Announcements**

None from group. Barbara reminded folks that she circulated the flyer for the upcoming Portland Public Health’s CHOW training upcoming at end of January.

1. Future Meetings: group had discussion of how and when- technology experience during December was not good. There is a proposed schedule of meetings & quarterly phone meetings. What’s response? Trying to stay with 3rd Wednesday of month?

There was a request of slight tweak with a later start in Bangor. Not sure if team can do that given start time in Portland (i.e. getting from Bangor to Portland). We will go with the proposed 10-12 in Bangor in March June & October. There was a suggestion to try for combined meeting using a school location that has video conference capabilities. Barbara will look into that possibility, using MMHP Tandberg system and two or three remote locations. The offer was made to have members of group share facilitation role so travel isn’t necessary.

**Peer Support Specialists and CHW’s**

Barbara shared information from both ME DHHS and facesandvoicesofrecovery.org that discuss the role, training and preparation of PSS. Both PSS and CHWs have hared identify in common. PSS focus on persons with MH/BH, and the peer shares a diagnosis (with their patients) but are further along in their own recovery. PSS certification process is in place in Maine. Under SIM it is expected that PSS will be part of BHH team. There is very little from research that looks at the similarities and difference between these two non-traditional healthcare workers. Clearly, PSS will be a resource for CHWs to be aware of for referrals, etc.,

Next month there will be a brief learning moment on the community paramedicine projects in Maine. These are pilot projects that are using paramedics and EMT’s for education, information sharing, connecting to care, leveraging existing relationships with their time and skillset.

**Working Definition of CHW**

New version was sent out by Barbara just prior to meeting. She provided a recap of process used last month which had individual groups come up with proposed definitions that were then considered and reviewed by a small ad-hoc committee. That committee than reviewed the proposed,, merged definition .There were no changes to that definition, so the definition has been distributed for today’s meeting..

Barbara asked the group to consider-

Have we met the expectations of the group?

 Does the definition speak to a broad or narrow audience?

 Response: broad definition works well many shared positive comments/endorsements on wording,

Barbara shared her concerns that some of the other existing definitions are more detailed about essential functions. She asked for comments and concerns to this issue.. Dd Swan shared that she thinks the definition can stand on its own. Supporting documents like job description/functions will follow as future documents to be developed. There seemed to be consensus within the group on this point.

Suggestions

 Linda Coleman – Do we need to be more descriptive of what a “provider” is? Health care vs. other?

Dd – can connote whole slew of health and social service providers which she likes i.e., DHHS, others,

Tense inconsistency- made edits to correct this.

Barbara shared she was pleased that the group had come to consensus on our working definition, somewhat surprised that we agreed so quickly,

The group then began its discussion of CHW Roles and Responsibilities

Lots of sources for information, does it exist where there are already CHW’s like Portland? Looking for suggestions from other participants. MMHP looking at curricula and resources for outlining commonly held roles and responsi, Barbara agreed to connect with Dd, Bankole, and others to see what they have available for the group to review at our February meeting.

Abdul from Lewiston asked some clarifying questions on scope of project,. He shared that there is great need within Lewiston for the training of CHWs not just in Portland.

Vicki peer program at Maine General recommends peersforprogress.org as a source

**Meeting Evaluation**

This worked better than last time because everything could be heard

Documents in advance very helpful

Productive meeting, started and ended on time