



Recovery Coalition of Greater St. Louis

Meeting Minutes

March 12, 2024

Mission: To continually improve access to quality prevention, intervention, treatment and recovery support services and programs for the Greater St. Louis Region.

Kim Rodriguez called to order the regular meeting of the Recovery Coalition of Greater St. Louis at 11:00 am on 3/12/24. This meeting is hybrid.

In attendance: Kim Rodriguez, Maggie Burke, Jay Majors, Marsha Hawkins-Hourd, Caitlin McCafferty, Kathy Thomas, Alex (ARCA), Shawna Kindred, Gracie Ledezma, Nick Zykan, Elecia Worley, Tonya

Online: Bishop Bracely

Opening Prayer by Jay Majors

Kim gave directions on how to access the February Meeting Minutes through the website.

February Meeting Minutes were read. Jay made a motion, Bishop seconded the motion and the motion passed to approve the Feb 2024 minutes.

Old Business:

Membership dues are due for 2024 were due by March 31, 2024.

First event is April 20th You Are Not Alone from St. Louis Crush Coalition is hosting. Volunteers needed. Many vendors will there. The RCGSTL will have a booth.

If you know of any events happening, please let Kim know so that we can create a calendar of events.

Marsha informed coalition that the office of violence prevention has outreach events that she would like to have the coalition's attendance at.

New Business:

The Conference was great. Feedback expressed a lack of knowledge for what bills were being asked support for.

Huge shout out to WashU for their support. Tonya asked Eleica if she was willing to start a committee for Advocacy throughout the year. A plan and a strategy is needed. Senator Williams was mentioned as a good person to support us. Recommend to invite State Reps out to RSS sites.

Tonya will reach out to Eleica to develop a plan for determining who is interested in year-round advocacy and "showing up at the table" for our needs and voice to be heard.

Marsha discussed a strategy for showing stakeholders that RSS is effective.

Eleica mentioned involving Trent Aurchabaum and Rich (the MCRSP lobbyist) to help us with a strategy.

Kim mentioned that for her agency, she can do advocacy but no lobbying. Marsha said that 501(c)3s can not lobby

Website review tabled until next month

Kim announced that Ann McGruder has resigned from MCRSP. Marsha informed coalition that Ann has received an offer that she can not refuse for an international position.

Ann's accomplishments: Staffing situations were addressed, she put MCRSP in a position to grow. Updated the website.

Pray for MCRSP to find a leader for our coalition

Kim asked for feedback about the idea that the Coalition meetings be rotating each month. Kathy mentioned that the audio is not good at all on the Zoom meetings. Feedback that we are losing people on Zoom because of the audio. Alex suggested members of the coalition doing a Member Spotlight every month. Getting the Owl up and running for next month. Overall feedback was to keep the meeting here at the Café.

Survey Monkey was suggested for the best day and time for new meeting.

Suggestion to address the audio. Tonya volunteered to come to April's Coalition Meeting early to make sure the audio/visual is set up and working prior to the meeting starting. The Coalition will keep the meeting at the Cafe, use the Owl, and use emails for engagement.

New and emerging resources:

Marsha shared there is \$32k for training staff. They do not pay for evening dinners but will pay travel, hotel, and admission to event. Must submit the receipts/invoices. Send a copy with the receipts.

The Althea Project started taking residents March 1, 2024. Looking for a new house.

Keyway has information regarding 1777 House Bill is SNAP benefits for felony records.

1098 Senate Bill about capping fees while in prison. Asking for advocacy. Keyway doing a Legislative Day.

Asking for furniture movers tomorrow at Keyway – will buy lunch – looking for volunteers. Contact Maggie Burke if you can help.

Jubilee Church has no updates.

Mission Gate no updates

Hope Creates – Community Creation Events – If you're interested in starting up or continuing, please contact Kathy so they can put it in the budget. Youth program has grown exponentially.

WashU – lab has launched a new study for black peer recovery support coaches. People who work with peers. There is financial compensation available for the study.

ARCA has new visitors at coalition meeting. Respite housing is doing well. Women's respite was slower to launch but now it is nearly full and staying full. Expanding on the 4th floor and working to find new ways to support recovery communities.

Marsha – last year we were awarded Show Me Hope housing. People who have a year of sobriety or 6 months if you have children in your care. They will pay the lease for housing for up to 2 years. They have to save 25% of their income. There would be a site visit. Contact Octavia Carr who is the Show Me Hope housing coordinator.

There is a grant for training and/or outreach events through a mini grant from MCRSP for up to \$1500.

Treasurer's Report:

Eight organizations have paid dues. Current Total for Coalition \$3850.00

Closing:

Next Meeting: April 11, 2024

Marsha closed in prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 12:16 pm

Meeting Minutes recorder by Tonya Hankins