VRN Minutes April 28, 2014
Turning Point of Addison County
Middlebury, Vermont


Called to order at 10:40 by Co-Chair Nancy Bassett.

Review of Agenda: Gary: add into agenda a conversation about the previous VRN and the Dr Simpatico conversation. Bob: add into the agenda a conversation on FY 15 funding. Discussion then followed on the Pathway Project and the Dr Simpatico conversation. The wording of Recovery was discussed. A person is in recovery if they say they are in Recovery. We at VRN accept all paths to Recovery.

Review minutes: Gary made a motion to accept minutes as written; Liz second, minutes passed as written.

Coordinator Report: Mark Ames gave his report with a handout of his activities for the past month. He spoke about a meeting he had with the Hub coordinators and communication issues that need to be worked out. Mark explained that our Network bought the rights for showing Anonymous People to groups of less than 100, so long as there is no charge for admissions. VRN has given out copies for $12 (ask for $20). It is ok to accept donations at showings. Of note he spoke of Act 295 and at this point it still has language about recovery in the bill and the bill is still being worked on. He let us know that Faces and Voices are with out a director at present. Stephen Gumbley is acting director. Faces and Voices has been trying to become the national organization credentialing for peer recovery programs in addition to being a recovery advocacy organization. He reported he spoke to Barb Cimaglio last week and the budget is still on track. Mark encouraged all of us present to share the VRN Progress report with our local legislators.

New England Recovery Conference June 2, 2014: Hand outs were passed around, it was noted that presenters are still needed. Emails have been sent with information on this Conference.

VAMHAR (The Association) Collaboration: Peter, Rita and Amanda represented the Association. Two meetings to date, the meetings are roughly every 6 weeks, in person and by phone conference. The meetings will continue with a goal of striving for a strengthened collegial relationship with clear roles.

Evan Smith spoke of BRSS TCKS and a very small grant round. Peter is to have a meeting later today. Purpose is to get philanthropists' to donate to the VRN for Recovery Centers. The Association will partner in hosting the Anonymous People showing in Brattleboro, VT to help benefit the new Recovery Center Building being retrofitted there. New hire to the Association Amanda Fulmer (background with collegiate recovery community) will be working on youth outreach and information resources. Rita now has
one role at the Association, which is recovery leadership and advocacy. Rita thanked everyone for helping with Recovery Day. Planning for 2015 Recovery day will start in November 2014. Rita will be seeking small grants to address peer leadership, academy policy, with the possibility of centers doing their own training. Next Recovery Coach Academy is in June. No lodging, commuter model. Rita is beginning to plan for the fall Academy. She will do a survey on the location. In collaboration with Rita the Executive committee to provide insight into curriculum using real life settings that coach would encounter. There will be showings of the Anonymous People in St J, Burlington and Brattleboro.

Network Committee Membership:


Standards/Peer Review: Liz, Dawn

Recovery Services: Joan, Becca, Nancy, Mike, Karen.

Directors were asked to go back to their boards and ask for membership. Next step would be to have committee meetings and elect chair people.

Standards Review Process: Mark passed out a document - Establish a uniform process for the Network's Standards Reviews. Using a set of questions for participants and providers we can evaluate how well we are doing to enhance our services. Mark came up with questions the Standards Review committee may find helpful. The survey needs to go to a group of our partners. Which partners should be given surveys? And what is the best approach get provider to do the survey? Evan Smith suggested inviting providers to a one hour meeting to get feed back. Amanda added we should ask why questions. There will be more to follow on this at next VRN meeting in May as this needs to be done as the deadline is approaching. Next step: Liz, Dawn and Mark to discuss.

Second Board Retreat: Mark is meeting with Barbara and Ann to discuss second board retreat. There is money left from the first retreat to cover the second. We need a second to discuss Network Governance. All are in favor of a second VRN Retreat. A decision was made to have the retreat after the end of the current fiscal year.

Collaboration Recovery Centers and Vocational Rehabilitation: Hugh Bradshaw and Hib Doe came to discuss how Vocational Rehabilitation could better work with Recovery Centers and possibly provide services with and at the centers. A folder of services was passed out with business card contact information. There are many opportunities and programs for people to return to the work force. We were asked if the centers would be interested in a pilot program using Vocational Rehabilitation services in Centers and this was of great interest for the Center Directors. Vocational Rehabilitation work with "the hard to serve" in our communities and it is known that," employment is the way to break the cycle." Center Directors spoke to their current relationship with their local vocational rehabilitation representatives and some centers have had people work at their centers that came through the vocational Rehabilitation process. These were positive interactions.
Pathway Guides were given the opportunity to share how their work was going in their communities. The overall consensus is that the Pathway Program is going well. There is still work to be done and that is being addressed. This is due to lack of providers or lack of a spoke. Of note Dr Tom Simpatico has made a commitment to help with this process. The Pathways to Recovery: What we offer handout was reviewed, the following changes were made: The word MAT will be spelled out at Medication Assisted Treatment and the word work will be changed to collaborate. A discussion followed on when is someone in Recovery? Someone is in Recovery when they say they are in Recovery. An example that was given: A person previously used heroin daily, that person is now smoking marijuana that person is in Recovery. These people are welcome at our centers just not under the influence. If under influence they are asked to leave, return when not under the influence and are given a meeting list. The Guides had met in the morning with Kristen Aja. After this sharing session they again went to meet with Kristen for the remainder of the day.

Funding: Bob handed out the spreadsheet showing the Solomon Project vs. VRN formula for funding. What formula should be used for future funding? The Turning Point of Burlington got an additional 13,000.00. The rest of the money was split equally. A vote is needed for FY 15. Bob motions, "In still adhering to our network policy of each center reaching a sustainable budget of 120,000.00 if the powers that be do not give the 120,000. Then Burlington, the largest Center will get a 26,000.00 sum of the Network Appropriations with the rest being equally divided amongst the 11 centers." Stefani seconds, Gary abstains, the vote passed by roll call vote per request of Gary. After the vote there was discussion on the need for a finance committee and need for discussion with legislators for more funding. The formula we are recommending is the spreadsheet.

Due to a prior commitment in Morrisville the Secretary had to leave at 2:30 pm and Co Chair Nancy Bassett took over the taking of the minutes.

2:30 pm Michael Casarico, Burlington Labs was present to discuss general ideas & thoughts regarding Burlington Labs donation of $12,000.00 to VRN.

- Would this be a part-time position to advocate for & publicize the centers & help them become sustainable? (Mark Ames made the comment that this would be the perfect augmentation to the recent SAMHSA grant application position)
- A marketing/development person? Also, an independent, non-ADAP funded ally
- Ultimately, each individual recovery center would learn to provide a yearly fundraising opportunity that will make the center sustainable & possibly also learning to apply for & write grant applications

Goal

- Develop a part-time job description

1. Inventory each center's fundraising abilities/build a menu & starting place
· Rate of pay
· Level of expertise, etc.

2. Provide an ally for center directors in finding types of fundraising that work in their particular community

One, or the other-

1. A person that would also be doing grant writing or works with foundations?
2. Vetting out feedback & information & figuring out beginning steps for financial fundraisers
3. How do you target the specific population that would donate on a yearly basis?

Do we want-

1. An event planner?
2. Someone works with foundations?
3. Has fundraising abilities?
4. Knowledge of development, ability to assess what’s needed in each specific community

Bill raised the question of why couldn’t each center be given a share of the donation to use as needed. A discussion followed, with a decision that these minutes will go out immediately & homework will be needed to be done to bring to the meeting scheduled for Friday, May 30 at the Barre TP.

Respectfully submitted, Dawn D. Lefevre.