

Constituents' Voice Meeting

Meeting Date : 8/20/2021 Meeting Location: Microsoft Teams

Meeting Start/ End: 9:45 am to 12:00 pm

Approval: Donna Coulter

Recorded by: Michael Shaw



Meeting Notes

1. Greetings & Introductions/Ground Rules/Review of Notes

Goal: _____

Strategic Plan Pillar(s): Advocacy Access Customer/Member Experience Finance Quality Workforce

Attendance– Everyone introduced themselves. (Michael Squirewell, Blake Perry, Paul Miller, Bethany Styer, Deb Monroe, Michele Vasconcellos, Jaime Junior, Nicole Gowan, Patty Carlson, Dr. Donna Coulter, Clarence Ruff, Margaret Keyes-Howard, Robert Spruce, Shelley Nelson, Eric Doeh, Linda Burton, Kelly Bonifas, and Michael Shaw)

Ground Rules –Michael Squirewell and Jaime Junior led the meeting. The announcements were displayed and read by Nicole Gowan. Michael Squirewell was the Sargent-at Arms.

Review & Approval of Notes of the July 20, 2021 CV meeting – Notes of the July 20, 2021 CV meeting were approved without changes.

Decisions Made		
Action Items	Assigned To	Deadline

2. Announcements

Nicole Gowan read the announcements. She mentioned the next EVOLVE meeting “Knowing Your Rights,” August 25, 2021, from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm via Zoom, a Town Hall Meeting about preserving the current mental health system in Michigan, August 26, 2021, from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm, Durfee Innovation Society, Detroit, MI., Walk A Mile In My Shoes, September 29, 2021, Lansing, MI, the NAMI Walk, August 28, 2021 from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon, Belle Isle, Detroit, MI., “Ethics and Boundaries in the Workplace,” webinar, August 30, 2021 from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm, “Reaching for the Stars” August 27, 2021 from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm, Eastern Market, Detroit, MI, and the Landlord-Tenants Rights webinar, August 27, 2021 from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm.

Decisions Made		
Action Items	Assigned To	Deadline
Send out meeting materials	Michael Shaw	After Every meeting

Administrative Update-Interim President and CEO Eric Doeh and Michele Vasconcellos, Director, Customer Service, DWIHN

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Mr. Doeh came to the meeting, but due to another commitment had to leave before he gave an update. Ms. Vasconcellos gave the administrative update. She stated that Eric Doeh was selected by the Board as the next President and CEO of DWIHN. There will be a Town Hall Meeting about proposed changes to the current mental health system by State Representative Whiteford on August 18, 2021 at the Hotel St. Regis in Detroit.

Decisions Made		
Action Items	Assigned To	Deadline
Send out meeting materials	Michael Shaw	After Every meeting

3. DWIHN Staff Updates-Donna Coulter

Dr. Coulter mentioned "Reaching for the Stars" and indicated that we need people to volunteer to help out at the event. "Reaching for the Stars" is an awards ceremony. The site is handicapped accessible. Everyone attending must wear a mask. There will be no photobooth due to COVID-19 transmission concerns. DWIHN Ambassadors have been invited and will help out at the event.

Decisions Made		
Action Items	Assigned To	Deadline
Send out meeting materials	Michael Shaw	After Every meeting

4. Deb Monroe-American Human Rights Coalition

Goal: _Strategic Plan Pillar(s): Advocacy Access Customer/Member Experience Finance Quality Workforce

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Ms. Monroe stated that human trafficking is a human rights violation and is a state and federal crime. There are many different types of trafficking, but human trafficking has surpassed sex trafficking in Michigan. Michigan has the second highest rate of human trafficking in the nation. Human trafficking is often under-reported. It is surpassing other crimes such as gun running and drugs. Unlike the previous mentioned crimes, people who are trafficked do not go over again. Children as young as four years old have been trafficked. It happens in cities and rural areas. Labor trafficking is domestic and often taken advantage of. Pan handling is also an area being exploited by human traffickers. Children are also being kidnapped and trafficked. Recruitment for victims of sex trafficking often happens when the person is between the ages of 12-14 years old. There is a high demand for sex trafficking, which is very profitable. Force, harm and coercion is used to intimidate victims to comply. Serious harm may be done to victims if they do not comply. Debt bondage, a person has to pay off a debt before they can leave. Victims of abuse are more likely to be victims of trafficking. Many people are trafficked for sex for money, a place to stay and/or food to eat. Poverty, mental illness, and drug addiction makes people vulnerable to trafficking. Children and young individuals are often trafficked by other people they know. Children and women often recruit and traffic individuals. Ms. Monroe said she was from a dysfunctional family. She became addicted to drugs.

Decisions Made		
Action Items		Assigned To

5. Youth Engaged in Learning and Leading (YELL) Blake Perry and Paul Miller

Goal: _____

Strategic Plan Pillar(s): Advocacy Access Customer/Member Experience Finance Quality Workforce

Blake Perry indicated that he is a YELL Ambassador. YELL is an educational program that helps high school students with or without a disability. YELL Ambassadors have lived experience and deliver the curriculum. The curriculum covers many areas; disability history, leaders in the disability and justice movement, disability pride and culture, identities and intersectionality, ableism, internal ableism, self-advocacy and cause advocacy, leadership skills and styles, working with different types of leaders, advocacy and community engagement, and other areas.

Decisions Made		
Action Items		Assigned To
		Deadline

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6. Walk A Mile in My Shoes-Margaret Keyes-Howard

Goal: _____

Strategic Plan Pillar(s): Advocacy Access Customer/Member Experience Finance Quality Workforce

The Network is planning for an in-person "Walk A Mile in My Shoes" event on September 29, 2021 in Lansing, MI. Two busses have been chartered to take people from 707 W Milwaukee, Detroit, MI to the state capitol and back. Nicole Gowan will be the Wayne County statement reader at the event.		
Decisions Made		
Action Items	Assigned To	Deadline
Members		

7. Promotional Bios and Photos of CV members-Nicole Gowan

Goal: _____

Strategic Plan Pillar(s): Advocacy Access Customer/Member Experience Finance Quality Workforce

Ms. Gowan asked CV members present to think about this: "in addition to having your pictures and bios uploaded, how else would you like to promote yourself on the DWIHN website?"		
Decisions Made		
Action Items	Assigned To	Deadline
Members		

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8. Action Group Updates

Goal: _____

Strategic Plan Pillar(s): Advocacy Access Customer/Member Experience Finance Quality Workforce

Engage-Nicole Gowan: Ms. Gowan indicated that the Engage Action Group is still soliciting toiletry items for distribution to victims of human trafficking. She acknowledged “Deb Monroe,” (one of today’s speakers) as a person that the action group secured to speak at a CV meeting. There are plans to package more toiletry items for distribution at Nicole Gowan’s house in the near future.

Advise-Ray Schuhholz: Mr. Schuhholz was not present so his update was tabled.

Empower-Michael Squirewell: Mr. Squirewell indicated that he set on the committee to select the new President and CEO of DWIHN. He also indicated that the mini-grant winners have been selected by the Empower Action Group.

Advocacy-Jaime Junior and Blake Perry: Ms. Junior indicated that no upcoming Advocacy Action Group meeting has been scheduled as of today.

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Decisions Made		
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Action Items	Assigned To	Deadline
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9. Good and Welfare

Goal: _____

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Due to time constraints, "Good and Welfare" was tabled.

Decisions Made		
Action Items	Assigned To	Deadline

NEXT MEETING: September 17, 2021

DWIHN

TBD