

NHLWAA
Board of Directors Meeting
Zoom Meeting

November 30, 2023

Board Members in Attendance: Todd Marsh, Pat Murphy, BJ Parker, Karen Emis-Williams, Natalie Darcy, Valerie Morse, Bob Mack, Trish Caruso, Lynne Goodwin, Charlene Michaud, and David Balian

Minutes submitted by Natalie Darcy

Board of Directors Meeting called to order at 10:09AM

1. **Minutes for meeting 9/21/23:** Motion to accept meeting minutes with change of spelling from Bab to Bob, by Charlene and seconded by Pat. Motion passed.
2. **Treasurer's Report** reviewed for August. Motion to approve the report made by Lynne and seconded by Natalie. Report reviewed for September. Motion to approve the report made by Lynne and seconded by Pat.
 - a. Pat made a note that Zoom will begin to charge for recorded videos stored. It was suggested to leave only 1 meeting at a time on Zoom until the meeting minutes have been recorded.
 - b. It was reported that there is a healthy balance in the account.
3. **Executive Board of Directors**
 - a. **Board**
 - I. **President's Report:** Todd stated that because of staff shortages, he could not justify going to the NHMA meeting in November. Todd's office has been very busy, he reported that he could not attend an opportunity to speak at Local Welfare 101 that was put on by NH Legal Aid. Todd continues to answer calls and emails throughout the state as many members of the Board of Directors do. Todd continues to work with NH Legal Aid. Stephen Tower is taking the approach to reaching out to municipalities. Board of Directors meeting minutes will be posted on the website and will be up to date. Todd to consider preparing a statement regarding local welfare budgets and the increase of rents. Why such sticker shock.
 - II. **Local Welfare Budget Concerns:** Many municipalities are over budget, and the Welfare Director will need to request funds to increase the budget.
 - a. NHERAP funding brought an expectation that local welfare could fund motel/hotels in the same way that the CAPs did. There is no expectation of responsibility by the client.
 - b. Discussion ensued about welfare offices not knowing how to move people on from shelters/hotels/motels. Severe lack of housing/shelter throughout the state.
 - c. Dave reports that his Social Worker brings people to the office to be housed.

III. Homeless Shelter Conversation: Many municipalities are now working with Rob Waters, Shelter Administrator for Homeless Services, DHHS.

- a. Lynne works with Rob and the low barrier shelter approach. Stated that all shelters must report openings, as does 211. Rob has paperwork to complete as to why individuals are not being placed in the shelter.
- b. Valerie is working with Tri-County CAP as the nearest shelter is 1 hour away. The woman's shelter is 40 minutes away. State needs to look at shelters for the North Country. In addition, welfare directors must be more flexible in their decisions as it is more cost effective to keep individuals in their apartments than to pay for high hotel costs.
- c. Seasonal Extreme Sheltering: Some municipalities are using local churches. The City of Lebanon purchased a building for the coldest nights of the year.
- d. It is difficult to find placements for people with criminal histories.
- e. Discussed hotels and hotel agreements. BJ stated that she expects clients to find their own accommodations.
- f. BJ discussed client discharge from hospitals, and the need to have housing at the time of hospital discharge, and not discharge to the City/Towns. Dave stated that hospitals should give clients a statement that they have the ability to self-care.

IV. Annual Meeting: February 15, 2024 Will need to update the members on the budget, and provide a copy of the Treasurer's Report. Time allotted for the meeting is 15 minutes. Should provide a rundown of the last year of activity in the organization. This needs to be on the agenda.

4. Committee Reports

I. Legislative Committee:

- a. **Define business hours** – NHMA cites Federal Case Law. Board voted at last meeting to pass this on to Legislative Committee. Todd sent Dave language to work with. Pat stated that her office uses 211 after 5pm and on weekends. Suggested a possible training on using 211 after 5pm.

II. Training Committee:

- a. Natalie stated that the November conference had a lack of participants attending, should find out if it was training topics, cost of conference or welfare offices are just busy. Have not picked out training for February meeting.
- b. Pat stated that she went to the conference, and it went well for those in attendance. Social Security trainer was very knowledgeable, and the CAP presentation was very well received.
- c. The cost of the conference is getting very expensive. It costs \$125.00 for 1 day to attend.
- d. Charlene suggested that we should ask the general membership their opinion.

III. SB110: Standard Practices

- a. Todd sending SB110 Standard Practices to Steve Buckly looking to see how to apply it. Will need to teach and implement SB110. It is a work in progress and could be a training session in the future.

IV. Nomination Committee: Nothing to report at this time.

V. Survey Ad-Hoc Committee:

- a. Should prepare a survey asking members about the November conference. Focus this on training and education.

VI. Financial Oversight Committee:

- a. Charlene does a great job! The finances are in good shape.

VII. Future Meetings: February General Meeting, the Training Committee will need to get speakers. A Training Committee meeting will be held in December. Bob appreciates everyone's perspective and we are all in it together!

VIII. Adjournment: Motion to adjourn made by Pat and seconded by Natalie