

Minutes  
Mental Health and Wellness Committee  
Town Manager's Office  
March 7, 2019  
3:00pm

Attendance:

Committee

Randy Jackson (Chair), Cody McEwen, John Davis (Town Manager), Steve Kenyon (Police Chief), Tom Malcolm (Fire Chief), Lori Santerre (Human Resources/General Assistance), Bob Peterson (MRH), Mary Tatro (MRH)

Public

Susan D'Alessandro

Meeting called to order by Manager Davis at 3:00pm.

I. Introductions

II. Elect a chairperson and a recording secretary.

Councilor Jackson was approved by unanimous consent to be the chair of the committee.

Chair McEwen was approved by unanimous consent to take minutes.

III. Decide how often and where we want to meet.

The committee decided to determine this at the end of the meeting.

IV. Determine if we want to add anyone to the committee

The committee determined that the core group would suffice and that the committee would look to have guest speakers often.

Bob suggested the addition of Shelley Drew.

Cody will check with school administration and medical staff about potential involvement as well as will check in with Selectmen Kyle Leathers of East Millinocket as he initiated the Opioids in our Community discussion at Katahdin Region Higher Education Center.

V. Discuss experience with opioids/mental health.

The committee shared experiences with having to deal with individuals affected by different forms of drugs with varying levels of impairment as well as individuals with behavioral issues that also pose an issue to proper management of cases.

Conversations ranged from education, public safety, medical intervention, behavioral intervention, and networking with providers to try and discuss possible solutions to circumvent the vicious cycle of addiction. Repeat offenders are putting strain on our police and medical services in the community without sufficient resources in the region to properly handle these cases.

Initial goals of the committee are to connect with the legislature on bills that are going through state government that could relate to committee work and to network with organizations and groups around the local area and state that have experience in opioid and other drug management as well as mental health.

Several committee members are going to check in with personal networks to gather some initial information and potential presenters.

The committee decided to check in to leads and get back to committee chair Jackson to schedule a following meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00pm