Meeting Minutes for Green Mountain Self-Advocates

I. Meeting Details

Meeting Leader: Lisa Rudiakov, President

Date: June 26, 2023   Time: 10:00 AM EST   Location: Virtual meeting on Zoom

Background Information: GMSA Officers and GMSA staff met virtually on June 23, 2023, for 75 minutes to prepare the agenda and meeting slides.

As accommodation for board members with a disability, notes are recorded live on Google Slides by Max Barrows and Karen Topper and displayed on a shared screen by GMSA Staff. Click here to review the Google slides used for June 26, 2023. Staff monitor the chat and read comments from board members who prefer to type to communicate.

II. Members Present

We had a Quorum with the following 13 members in attendance:

1. Chad Cleverly, Treasurer
2. Christopher Dubeau
3. Erik Johnson
4. Gary Vyhnak
5. Heather Raymond represented by alternate Randy Lizotte
6. Jennifer Rainville
7. Levi Gardner, Vice-President
8. Lisa Rudiakov, President
9. Nicole Villemaire, secretary
10. Skye Peebles (left early due to internet issues)
11. Taylor Terry
12. Tesha Thibodeau
13. Whitley Draper represented by alternate David Frye

III. ABSENCES.

- Marjorie Burns (excused);
- Ocean Streater (excused).

IV. CALL TO ORDER.

President Lisa Rudiakov facilitated the meeting. She started the meeting promptly at 10:00 AM EST. All participants introduced themselves. Board members provided an update on local group activities.
The meeting agenda was typed on a Google Slide. It was shared on screen and read by Lisa R.  [Click here to see the agenda on slide #1 of the GMSA Board Meeting 6.26.23 slide document.](#) Several board members asked that we add the Gala to the agenda. The agenda was then approved without any other changes.

**V. OLD BUSINESS.**

The Board discussed moving forward on having the Gala at the Capitol Plaza Hotel in Montpelier during the fall. We have not had this event since 2019 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The board asked GMSA staff to find out what dates are available. Also, to bring an updated menu and prices to the July meeting

**VI. NEW BUSINESS.**

- On April 27 the Government Put Out a Draft Of New Rules. They are called: Ensuring Access to Medicaid Services. They are called the **Access Rule** for short. The Access Rule is different from the HCBS Settings Rule. But both Rules are powerful. The Access rules want to improve your access to Medicaid services. They also want to improve the quality of services you get. Public comments are requested. GMSA officers and staff explained 8 of the new rules. The board discussed these ideas and shared comments to be sent to the government. [Click here to see the board comments on slides #4 through #15 of the GMSA Board Meeting 6.26.23 slide document.](#)

- The state reached out to Max Barrows and Karen Topper to set up a meeting to discuss paying peer mentors. In August HCBS Grant money may be available. There will be an opportunity for community groups to apply for funding. To prepare for the meeting with state officials, the board shared **ideas on how paid peer mentors would improve their advocacy and self-determination skills.** [See slides #16 and #17 for details.](#)

- Officers and GMSA staff worked together to explain the **proposed budget for FY24 or fiscal year 2024.** Examples of different types of expenses were
provided for each category. The board understands that GMSA has applied for two new projects. We will not know if they are funded until September and December. The board was told that the budget will have to be amended if those projects were approved. The board discussed and unanimously approved the FY24 budget. See slides #18 and #19 for details.

VII. OTHER ITEMS.

The next meeting will be on July 31, 2023, from 10:00 to 12:00 on Zoom.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT.

President Lisa Rudiakov adjourned the meeting at 12:05 PM EST.