

- **Meeting with SAMHS (the new Office of Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services)**
The Coordinating Committee (CC) and I have met with the leadership of SAMHS this week. The issues discussed were the upcoming reorganization issue statement, Intentional Peer Support issues and possible solutions and an update on Monday's emergency department meeting.
- **Legislative Update**
Please look at the handouts in your packet for a full analysis of the final cuts and who will be impacted. The legislature is back in session in September and we will wait to see about additional cuts and bills that we may want to weigh in on.
- **CCSM Budget/Contract Update**
First we have an encumbered contract and our first bill has been processed. We have not had a payment on our contract since mid-May. This is the normal state process. June's payment is only paid when we complete an end of year close out report and final quarterly report. We have been assured that July's payment will be in our account on Monday. I am hoping to get together with our CPA to get all reports done and to the state ASAP. We then will probably get June's money at the same time we get money for August. It will take until mid-August to get back on fiscal track. We have scheduled our first budget meeting for August 10th from 2:30-4:30pm. This meeting will be to give the committee an overview of our QuickBooks forms and how to read financial statements. We will then meet quarterly to coincide with financial reporting time.
- **IPSAC (formerly GPAC)**
I need to say there is a lot of energy across the state regarding intentional peer support. There have been many forums in which this has been discussed with the Commissioner as well SAMSHA (federal). We may help in some new ways as an independent organization. More to come....
- **Outreach**
If there is someone or a group you think I/we should be connecting with I welcome the feedback. Here are some of the groups I go to or have been involved in this month. Remember there are many more meetings that CCSM staff, SCC reps and local and other consumers participate in as well. If you are interested in doing this, see me and we can work find what might work for you!
- **MeHAF (Maine Health Access Foundation)**
Both the Community Advisory Committee (CAC) and the grants committee have been helping the board and staff make decisions about the next round of grant proposals. They have now gone out for RFP.

- **Community Inclusion**
A steering committee on Community Inclusion has been created and met several weeks ago. It includes consumers, providers and SAMHS staff. We sent 5 consumers to attend: myself, Vickie in her role as MAPSARC president, Gordon from the Portland LC, Alex Veguilla now at Tri County and I believe is connecting with Lewiston LC, and Holly from Riverview. We had Rick from Temple lead us through a process to discuss the barriers to Committee Inclusion and some themes emerged which will be worked on in subcommittees soon.
- **Moving Forward Initiative**
Work with Lewiston Youth Move and Lewiston LC is still our next step. We finished policy work and will reconvene after all the changes at DHHS.
- **Alliance for Full Participation Conference Follow Up Group (Employment First)**
This group is looking at employment issues across disabilities. They are looking to start making changes in legislation and policies around employment.
- **We Can Work**
We have not met this month...we will be back when more info is available.
- **Recovery Month**
We are actively planning for events to take place in September. Several of us met with the substance abuse reps to discuss some joint events. I believe the events will take place in Portland, Lewiston, Bangor and Augusta. If you want to be part of the planning, let me know.
- **Georgetown Leadership Academy**
I have been actively working on assignments before I leave on August 19th. I will not be at the next SCC meeting as I will be flying home that day. The focus of the academy is on disparities in mental health care.
- **PNMI**
A new group of all the 6 types of PNMI's have formed to be one council. I made a very direct statement to the group yesterday as there was discussion of having "advocates" at the legislature to help push for additional funds needed to get through this transition. I said that the problem for advocates like me is that we don't have access to consumer voice as the providers are not telling people what is happening and so it should not be assumed that we would support what is being offered. We are currently working on an issue statement about this.

Respectfully submitted,
 Simonne Maline
 July27, 2012