

PWLE End of Year Report June 2022

This past year saw the start of the Lived Experience Advisory Committee (LEAC). The early months of the project involved a lot of peer training and familiarizing myself with the organization. I was also able to complete some surveys for the Hub explore the needs for the client base there. The program began on February 26th and has been held on the final Saturday of the month ever since. I went into the LEAC with 12 individuals registered. The biggest challenge this program has faced has been encouraging the members to participate. Many of them are still experiencing homelessness and remaining connected with them has been difficult. I try to ensure to remind each one throughout the week leading up to the meeting about the start time and location. I also ensure that I call the shelter and the North Shore Inn the morning of the meeting to remind members of the time. Another challenge faced by the committee is the discussions on what is expected from the Coordinated Access Program (CAP). As the CAP is still in it's early days and it is still a learning curve for everyone involved. To combat this Axel McGowan has been present since the March meeting so that there is a direct connection between those on the LEAC and with the CAP. I will also be attending some of the CHAT meetings moving forward so that I can direct the LEAC This committee is intended to be mostly peer driven and the participants have had the opportunity to draft the confidentiality agreement for all members of the LEAC. They all voted on incorporating a section where they can opt in or out of having their names shared to the partner organizations through the CHAT, Systems Table, and Nelson Committee on Homelessness. We have also introduced the basis for complaints in hopes that the LEAC can draft the complaints process for the CAP. I will also be introducing a series of life skills programming in order to educate those with lived experience of homelessness a chance to develop and rebuild communication skills necessary to navigate the housing systems and to maintain relationships with peers, service providers, and landlords. Despite these challenges the conversations and discussions held in the LEAC meetings are a success. The participants are happy to be able to share their experiences for the betterment of the housing process. The members are candid in their sharing and bring a lot of experience in navigating systems already in place.