



The Recovery Support Network

Transitional Housing for Women in Washington County

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The Recovery Support Network held its second Annual Membership Meeting on Thursday, May 14, 2009 at the Machias Savings Bank's Community Room in downtown Machias. President June Ashmore opened the meeting with a Network introduction to the public as well as new members, "We are working very hard to provide . . . a transitional home for women in Washington County . . . who are actively pursuing recovery . . . and who desire to stay in Washington County, with or without their children." She reviewed the last year's progress, noting that, "Without the support of the Maine Lighthouse and Kathleen Miller, we would be nowhere near where we are now." June went on to add that the Network was looking to include people who are passionate about recovery and show compassion for those pursuing it.

Kathleen discussed the Maine Lighthouse's concern with substance abuse and addiction issues in Maine, and their evolving focus on increasing recovery opportunities for women. She identified the Maine Lighthouse's receipt of a recent SAMHSA planning grant that provided the Recovery Support Network with a staff person in the form of Märta Conlin, as an opportunity to infuse energy into the planning process for the transitional home. During this time, Märta will focus on financial planning, developing the program and structure and generally moving the organization into a stronger position. Kathleen recognized the impetus provided by the Washington County Drug Action Team, represented by Barbara Drisko and Rick Tanney, in the form of a grant awarded to pursue a transitional housing program that worked in conjunction with local treatment as well as family-centered supportive service providers.

Program Director Märta Conlin recognized the outstanding contributions of four volunteers whose commitment to the Network's mission had resulted in many hours of work to benefit the eventual residents of the transition house. She went on to express her appreciation of those who worked to increase the recovery opportunities in Washington County and built the collaborative relationships that would make the Network a reliable resource for women in recovery. Stressing the importance of spreading the word, she said, "We all need to let people know that we can help them get the job we all want done, done."

Retiring Board member Sandra Draper-Hayward was recognized for her contributions to the Recovery Support Network, and five new members were elected to the Board. New members include Katherine Cassidy of Machias, Kelly Fickett of Cherryfield, Jeannie Grant of Indian Township, Renee Hamilton of Princeton, and Jeannine LeBlanc of Machias.

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