



Monadnock Peer Support Agency appoints five new Directors.

Keene, NH, January 31, 2023 –

"The Directors and I are proud to welcome these five incredible leaders as our new colleagues on the Monadnock Peer Support Board of Directors," Tara Abbott, MPS's Board Chair. "These individuals will add tremendous value to the organization with their knowledge, expertise, and passion for our mission."

Keene Fire Chief Donald Farquhar joins us with over 30 years of public safety and emergency management experience. "Our members feel safer and supported knowing that Keene Fire is not only across the street from our building but that they understand trauma and how to approach people experiencing mental health struggles. Farquhar supports our members with grace and unconditional high regard. It is a gift to have our very own Fire Chief join the team." Allen stated.

Sheriff Eli Rivera is a retired Keene Police Lieutenant and a US Coast Guard and US Army Reserve veteran. As Sheriff, Rivera sees firsthand the struggles of the Monadnock community. Rivera feels a strong sense of urgency to be a part of the change and has chosen to support those organizations on the front lines. Rivera stated, "I've always had a passion for volunteering within the community I serve and love."

Kevin Tighe joins us with his lived experience of homelessness, mental health, addiction, and recovery. Tighe is the Co-Director of the Mountain View Retreat, formally known as the Fitzwilliam Inn, located in Fitzwilliam, NH. "The Inn is a post-detox recovery retreat. It focuses on steps in conjunction with therapy, diet, meditation, exercise, and other holistic venues." Tighe states. Today, he can apply his knowledge and passion for supporting others. Tighe is committed to challenging the stigmas surrounding mental health, illness, and addiction.

Devan Blake comes on board with dedication and a commitment to the mission. Devan is an expert in cultivating relationships, making connections, marketing, fundraising, and more. Devan possesses a level of enthusiasm that is inspirational!

Jennifer Friedman is a retired Librarian who moved to Keene in 2021. Friedman understands the community, sees beyond the deficiencies, and enhances the strengths. Friedman is compassionate, caring, and excited to serve the Monadnock Peer Support community in any way she can.

"We are working hard to change the face of mental health in our region and to de-stigmatize the negative experience of struggling. As we work toward becoming a trauma-informed community, these individuals are in a position to help educate and share our mission." Christine Allen, the Executive Director of Monadnock Peer Support Agency.