



Survivors of Abuse Recovering (S.O.A.R.)

A Community-Based Peer Counselling Service for Adult Survivors of Childhood Sexual Abuse in Hants, Kings & Annapolis Counties

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 Charitable Organization # 876605726RR0001 NS Registered Not For Profit Society # 2483696

Chairs Report 2020

October 28, 2020

Dear S.O.A.R. Members and Guests,

This has been a year of change; Covid19 presented many challenges as we learned to navigate the ever-changing environment, emerging with renewed strength. I am grateful for the work our peer supporters; members and the Board of Directors do in supporting individual who have experienced childhood sexual abuse.

Thank you to our Board of Directors; Daisy Coleman, Karen Cox, Karen Martin, Juanita Palmer, and Cathy Vey; and our coordinator, Rhonda Young for their unwavering commitment, ensuring S.O.A.R.'s growth.

To Bruce Dienes and Cathy Vey for their diligence in finding the safest digital platform to remain connected with our peers and to continue our Peer Supporter Meetings.

A warm welcome to our new Peer Supporter Mentor, Sally Tucker! Sally's role will be to mentor trained peer supporters and to create a mentorship training module for peer supporters.

In 2020, I reflect on our accomplishments:

- Peer Supporter refresher training was completed in December.
- The Peer Supporter Trainers Manual update is complete,
 - the trainee's manual is forthcoming
- Peer Supporter training module 1 is set to begin November 7, 2020.
 - module 2 will begin January 9, 2021.
- The Mutual Aid Services Project contract has been extended through March 2021, will continuing to build a community network.
- Purchase of a much-needed new laptop for our coordinator
- Rhonda Young enrollment in office administration courses at NSCC, bringing new skills to her role as coordinator

The Board continued its commitment to identify, develop, and implement necessary policies. The following policies were accepted:

- Certification Review Policy
- Decertification and Recertification Policy
- Certification and Certification Maintenance Policy
- Complaints Process Policy

This year we reluctantly accepted the resignation of John Moore, as our mental health liason, board members Juanita Palmer and Daisy Coleman as well as the retirement of Rena Huntley.

The Board of Directors has been acutely aware of the need for peer supporters on the board and are excited to learn from the nominating committee this year two peer supporters are joining the board.

As we enter a new year, it is a time for renewal, encouraging new ideas, embracing challenges, and welcoming new board members. The Board of Directors will begin planning the 2021 goals at the next board meeting. I encourage you to join us at our next meeting on November 4, 2020, as we work together to better serve our community.

As my term as Chair of the Board of Director comes to a close, I am thankful to have worked with such a dedicated and hardworking board. As I welcome the new board, I am confident that whatever lies ahead, they will work to improve, promote and protect the well-being of those we support. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Sheri Dawson, Chair
S.O.A.R. Board of Directors

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