



## **Monadnock Peer Support Responds to President's Remarks on Institutionalization of Individuals with Mental Health**

[KEENE, NH]- Prior to his recent visit to New Hampshire the President made remarks on institutionalizing individuals with mental health to combat gun violence. The president has also made remarks calling individuals with mental health “monsters.”

Monadnock Peer Support (MPS) Executive Director Peter Starkey released the following statement on behalf of the center:

“The President has continued to perpetuate false statements and generalizations of people who live with mental health. Our focus must be on keeping individuals with mental health in the communities of their choice while developing more robust options of support that build relationships, strengthen community, and provide opportunities for advocacy. We must not return to the failed practices of the past. Too often individuals with mental health are scapegoated in our community, forced to feel isolated, alone, and feared.”

New Hampshire citizens have spoken about how they want to address mental health in the Granite State. Through the development of the 10-Year Mental Health Plan stakeholders advocated for stronger community supports, including the increase of peer support programming throughout the continuum of care.

Starkey added, “MPS will continue to offer our members and participants opportunities to voice their concerns about these recent comments, and hold elected officials accountable to their words and actions. Individuals who live with mental health are productive members of our communities. They are mothers, fathers, brothers and sisters, volunteers, passionate professionals, and activists. We will continue to support their work and fight tirelessly for the rights of all people in NH.

*In reality, individuals with mental health are more likely to be victims of violence than the perpetrator, with more than 60% of gun related deaths associated with suicide.*

For information on how to get more involved in advocacy efforts, please call 603-352-5093 or email Jude Grophear, Program Director, at [jgrophear@monadnockpsa.org](mailto:jgrophear@monadnockpsa.org).

For questions regarding this statement, please email [jmclaughlin@monadnockpsa.org](mailto:jmclaughlin@monadnockpsa.org).