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**7/15/2022**

**Mental Health Block Grant Planning Council Minutes**

**\*\*DRAFT\*\***

**Present Members:**  Marla Simpson (Chair)  Dan Towle (he/him)  Alice Maynard  C Rubin  Cinn Smith  Laurie Emerson (NAMI)  
 Michael McAdoo  Laurie Mulhern

**Vermont Care Partners/DAs/SSAs:**  Dillon Burns  Julie Tessler  Michael Hartman

**DMH:**  Eva Dayon (they/them)  Steve DeVoe (he/him)  Trish Singer (she/her)  Nicole DiStasio (they/she)  Anne Rich  Joanne Crawford  Brian Smith  Karen Barber

**State of Vermont:**  Heather Bouchey (AOE)  Danielle Bragg (DVHA)  Diane Dalmasse (DAIL)  Victoria Hudson (DCF)  Annie Ramniceanu (DOC)  Emily Trutor (she/her; VDH DSUP)

**Public:**  Steve Walsh  Joanna Cole  Rachel Hobart  Alexis McGuinness  Elaine Ball  Brett Yates

**Agenda**

- 1:00 Convene Meeting and Introductions
- 1:15 Review April 2022 Meeting Minutes
- 1:20 MHBG Planning Council Chair Discussion
- 1:45 MHBG Funding Updates
- 2:00 MHBG Training/Overview “101” from SAMHSA Break
- 2:05 Public Comment
- 2:10 Meeting Wrap-up/Closing
- 2:15 Adjournment

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Agenda Item	Facilitator/Timekeeper: Steve DeVoe; Minutes: Joanne Crawford
<p><b>Convene Meeting and Introductions</b></p>	<p><b>Meeting convened at 106p</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Reviewed agenda.</li> <li>● MHBG Planning Council Introductions.</li> <li>● DMH Updates.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Shayla Livingston has transitioned to her new role as the new Agency of Human Services Policy Director.</li> <li>○ Nicole DiStasio is currently serving as the DMH Interim Policy Director; position is posted online and applications are currently being accepted; position should be filled by August 2022.</li> <li>○ Eva Dayon is currently serving as the DMH Interim Assistant Director of Quality; position cannot be permanently filled at present due to Nicole DiStasio serving in their interim role.</li> <li>○ DMH Quality and Program Participant Specialist position is currently vacant due to Eva Dayon serving in their interim role.</li> <li>○ DMH Quality Management Coordinator position: DMH Team currently conducting interviews and positions will be filled by August 2022.</li> <li>○ Pay grade inquiry by Dan Towle.                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Pay grades and step increases are set by Vermont Department of Human Resources and can be found online <a href="#">here</a>.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>● Member Updates.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ None.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Review April Meeting Minutes</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Alice requested amendment from “stack holder” to stakeholder.</li> <li>● Dan raised question/comment about number of follow-up items from April minutes.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Suggestion to add “follow-up items” section to meeting minutes to ensure tracking, monitoring, and follow up to any ongoing tasks.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Motion</b> to accept April 2022 minutes made by Dan. Seconded Heather. No discussion. Majority in favor. None opposed. 1 abstention. Motion passes. 123p.</p>
<p><b>MHBG Planning Council Chair</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● History of Mental Health Block Grant Planning Council (MHBG PC) during current chair, Marla Simpson’s, tenure during the last 8-9 years.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ MHBG PC’s work accelerated from SAMHSA’s previous technical assistance.</li> <li>○ Impressed by dignity and evolution of MHBG funding to improve health and quality of care for children, youth, families, and adults.</li> <li>○ Implementation of Results Based Accountability (RBA) framework to projects funded by MHBG.</li> <li>○ Previously, Vermont MHBG funding was ~\$700k; presently, ~\$1.4 million with additional COVID-related funding streams.</li> <li>○ Cinn Smith previously served as Vice Chair; Cindy Tabor was briefly co-chair.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Marla feels that this is an appropriate time to step down. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Alice: no one has been more dedicated to this work.</li> <li>▪ Dan: joined ~6 years ago, been friend/mentor, helped train me as a peer, fantastic work colleague.</li> <li>▪ Cinn: best facilitator and meeting agenda; generosity and kindness.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Next steps for election of MHBG PC Chair and Vice Chair. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Dan: Alice Maynard nominated, who declined nomination.</li> <li>○ Please reach out to Steve DeVoe, DMH Director of Quality and Accountability, if any interest in serving in one of these roles (<a href="mailto:stephen.devoe@vermont.gov">stephen.devoe@vermont.gov</a>).</li> <li>○ Discussion about next steps vis-à-vis <a href="#">Vermont Mental health Block Grant Planning Council Operating Policies and Procedures</a>. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Marla Simpson will serve as interim chair through end of Calendar Year 2022.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Cinn Smith: this item should stay on agenda until these positions are filled.</li> <li>○ Danielle Bragg: what is required of the Chair? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Chair and facilitate meetings.</li> <li>▪ Letters disseminated by MHBG PC with the final approval/signature of the Chair and Vice Chair. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Annual letter to SAMHSA.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Ensure understanding of and compliance with federal statute (<a href="#">42 USC [United States Code] § 300x</a>) that governs use of MHBG funding.</li> <li>▪ Assist with recruitment of members.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>MHBG Funding Updates</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Overview of SAMHSA MHBG Allocation Tables.</li> <li>● Mandatory set asides (5% crisis; 10% early serious mental illness [ESMI], first episode psychosis [FEP]). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Open Dialogue/CNA overview.</li> <li>○ Focus on how can DMH best support those who are experiencing signs/symptoms of EMSI/FEP.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● MHBG Budget Tracker. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ “Living document” that DMH is using to track the different funding streams of the MHBG <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ MHBG different funding streams (regular block grant, COVID supplemental, ARPA supplemental, etc.) and associated timelines overview to expend these respective funding streams.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Pathways, as well as other peer organizations, have received an 8%</li> <li>○ Request for reviewing this tracker at next meeting in August 2022.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>MHBG Training/Overview 101</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Interest from MHBG PC Members for this training/overview. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Steve DeVoe will reach out to Steve Fry, previously Vermont’s SAMHSA Project Officer for MHBG, to inquire about the possibility providing block grant overview and federal regulations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Question from member regarding what is the historical reasoning for restriction of spending MHBG funding on prevention and promotion?</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emily noted that there is a 20% SABG mandated set aside for the federal Substance Abuse Block Grant.</li> <li>• Discussion about restriction on MHBG for spending funds on prevention and promotion</li> <li>• Draft letter to Senator Sanders, who sits on the <a href="#">US Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, &amp; Pensions</a>.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Member noted that terms “SMI” and “SED” are offensive to some community members.</li> <li>○ Danielle noted that DVHA uses of behavioral health as an all-encompassing term that includes mental health, substance use (alcohol, drugs, nicotine), eating disorders as a few examples.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Public Comment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None.</li> </ul>
<b>Meeting Wrap-up/Closing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Follow-up items from April 2022 to be discussed at August 2022 meeting.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Request to add “Follow-up Items” section within agenda and meeting minutes to ensure proper tracking and follow-up to identified tasks/items Meeting (see “Follow-up Items” section below and amend as needed).</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Member inquired about the Substance Abuse Block Grant’s Planning Council, which is facilitated by the Vermont Department of Health, Division of Substance Use Programs, and their meeting schedule.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Substance Misuse Prevention Oversight and Advisory Council (Public Meeting)                 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <a href="https://www.healthvermont.gov/alcohol-drugs/reports/public-meetings">https://www.healthvermont.gov/alcohol-drugs/reports/public-meetings</a></li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• Marla will continue to serve as MHBG PC interim chair until new calendar year (2023).</li> </ul>
<b>Follow-up Items</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FY2020 MHBG Outcomes.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Goal Number 8 and 9: Steve will be following up on this question and bring the answer to the next meeting.</li> <li>○ Goal Number 10: Steve will also provide follow up on the 10% set aside which was led by Counseling Services of Addison County.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• 2016 SAMHSA audit results of Vermont MHBG.</li> <li>• Create, finalize, and publish MHBG Planning Council Member list.</li> <li>• Identify next MHBG PC Chair and Vice Chair.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Draft letter to SAMHSA.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Review MHBG Budget Tracker.</li> <li>• Review and discuss <a href="#">Vision 2030</a> report.</li> <li>• Recruitment of community members.</li> </ul>
<b>Adjournment</b>	<b>Motion to Adjourn</b>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Alice motions. Dan seconds. All in favor. Abstentions none. Meeting adjourned at 233p.</li></ul>
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