

VERMONT MENTAL HEALTH BLOCK GRANT  
PLANNING COUNCIL  
Meeting Minutes

October 15, 2021

1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Location: WSOC, Cherry A  
and Microsoft Teams

**Members in Attendance:** Marla Simpson, Dan Towle (NAMI VT, PVT), Stephanie Beck (ADAP), Victoria Hudson (DCF), Cinn Smith, Ann Rich (DMH), Laurie Emerson (NAMI VT), Alice Maynard

**DMH Staff and Guests in Attendance:** Christina Thompson (DMH), Nicole DiStasio (DMH), Dillon Burns (VCP), Steve Walsh, Trish Singer (DMH)

**Convene Meeting, Introductions:**

- Meeting convened at 1:05 PM
- Reviewed agenda, made introductions

**Review August 2021 Meeting Minutes:**

- Alice moved to approve the August meeting minutes; Dan seconded. All in favor and the motion passed.

**DMH Funding Updates**

- Christina provided an update on legislatively appropriated funds for distribution through the Department of Mental Health (DMH). See attached PDF.

**Review MHBG Funding Proposals**

- Nicole and Christina presented an overview of submitted MHBG funding proposals.
- Proposals presented included:
  - Trauma-Responsive School Course for Clinicians
    - Suggestion: Include an outcome measure
  - Puppets in Education
    - Suggestion: Film and make available
  - Hannah's House General Funds
  - Building Bright Futures- Early Childhood and Family Mental Health Resources
    - Suggestion: Add an outcome measure that tracks if kids/family are aware of their entitlements from Act 264.
  - Interpreters and Trainings for Mental Health Providers to Support Immigrants and Refugees
    - Suggestion: More in general cultural competency, in general
    - Suggestion: Consult with Pathways for this training
    - Suggestion: Not just recent immigrants, but larger BIPOC community
    - Suggestion: Ask the grantee to focus on forwarding one or more action area in Vision 2030 (Reducing stigma?)
  - Peer Support Analysis for Children's System of Care
    - Question: Needs more information. RFP for analysis is ok, but how to pay for services if implemented?

- COVID Support VT Resource
- DBT Learning Collaborative and Steering Committee
- DBT Intensive Supervision Pilot Program
  - Suggestion: Remove the focus on BPD, has gendered stigma and the approach should be more broadly applicable.
- Six Core Strategies
  - Suggestion: Expand this training to schools.
  - Suggestion: Trainings should have a minimum number of participants attending to pay for it.
  - Suggestion: Integrate how this helps reduce suicide.
- Digital Network for Mental Health Workforce Support
  - Suggestion: Needs to be more of a connection to housing to prevent that people who interview can take the job and are not refusing because they cannot find housing.
- Workforce Retention and the System of Care
- Train-the-Trainer for the ANSA
- Telepsychiatry
  - Question: What is this paying for? Services or technology or something else?
- Clinical Risk Management Pilot Program
- See attached PDF for details of proposals.

#### **Updates and Next Steps**

- Nicole provided an update on the status of the COVID Mitigation Funding Proposal to SAMHSA and the MHBG Project Coordination RFP.
- Proposed November meeting agenda items were reviewed
  - Review Outcomes
  - Introduce Project Coordinator
  - Planning for process improvement activities

#### **Public Comment**

- A member of the public, Steve Walsh, suggested the MHBG Planning Council is not being used appropriately and is out of compliance due to membership composition.

#### **Adjournment:**

- Stephanie moved to adjoin; Dan seconded the motion. All in favor and the meeting adjourned at 3:02pm.

#### **Action Items:**

- ✓ Dan suggests topic on next meeting agenda regarding membership composition compliance ( in re: Steve Walsh's request)
- ✓ Nicole to respond to questions on proposals

**Next Meeting: November 12, 2021**

**Location: Microsoft Teams meeting**

**Call-in Number: +1 802-828-7667**

**Conference ID: 506 092 440#**

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

**Optional in person location: [WSOC Conference Room Cherry A](#)**

