

This meeting was not recorded. Seven members are needed for a quorum.

1/19/2024

Mental Health Block Grant Planning Council Minutes

****DRAFT****

Present Members: Marla Simpson (Chair) Dan Towle (he/him) Cinn Smith Laurie Emerson (NAMI) Laurie Mulhern Daniel Blankenship (VHSA)

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 Karen Barber Laura Flint Carolyn McBain Tom Coleman (DMH Contractor) Megan Shedaker

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

Public: David Silverberg Kristin Brynga

Agenda

- 1:00 Introductions & Member Updates
- 1:15 Review November 2023 Meeting Minutes
- 1:20 MHBG and Planning Council Updates
- 1:30 MHBG Planning Council Overview
- 2:10 Public Comment
- 2:15 Adjourn

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Agenda Item	Facilitator/Timekeeper: Steve DeVoe; Minutes: Joanne Crawford
Introductions and Membership Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Introductions ● Membership Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Recruitment (Ongoing) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mental Health Block Grant (MHBG) PC Chair/Vice-Chair – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dan Towle is willing to become the Chair for this group on the condition that there is someone who is willing to step up as Vice-Chair. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ https://mentalhealth.vermont.gov/sites/mentalhealth/files/doc_library/PC_OperatingProcedures_adopcted_June_21_2019.pdf ● Laurie Mulhern is willing to be the Vice-Chair. ● Steve DeVoe made a motion to approve Dan Towle as Chair and Laurie Mulhern as Vice-Chair. Victoria Hudson seconded the motion. The vote to approve was unanimous. ▪ At-Large Members <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ongoing recruitment for members. ○ Member Appointments Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ David Silverberg and Kristin Brynga are prospective members with applications submitted for review by the AHS Secretary’s Office
Review November 2023 Meeting Dates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Draft of November 2023 Minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Laurie Mulhern made a motion to approve the November minutes, Marla Simpson seconded the motion. The vote to approve was unanimous.
MHBG and Planning Council Updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Request for Proposals Updates: Bipartisan Safer Communities Act (BSCA) and Special Projects Fund <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ BSCA Supplemental: Updating Disaster Mental Health Plan The Council posted a request for proposals related to the BSCA Supplemental Award. There are several block grant awards: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Annual base award – approximately a third (~\$575k) of the award has been received of the \$1,672,361 annual allotment ▪ American Rescue Plan (ARP) Supplemental which runs through September 2025

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Allotment: \$2,445,549.00▪ COVID-19 Recovery Supplemental Funding award which runs through this March 2024<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Allotment: \$1,415,844.00▪ COVID mitigation award – this was meant for COVID testing and supplies. This continues to be spent down.<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Allotment: \$125,000.00▪ Bipartisan Safer Communities Act (BSCA) supplemental award – specifically meant to go toward disaster planning or crisis service related to a disaster.<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Annual allotment: \$138,656.00; 4 awards will be provided to Vermont for a total allotment of \$554,624.00• The Department of Mental Health (DMH) does not have a current disaster plan that provides guidance for the agency to react to disasters. We post a request for proposals to create a disaster mental health plan for DMH. We received five bids. Steve was part of the group to review views. Still determining who the vendor will be.• FOLLOW UP – what is the criteria to meet the definition of a disaster?• Dan Towle (Chair) asked that a member of the MHBG Council to be involved in the review of the Request for Proposals (RFPs) in the future.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ FOLLOW UP – DMH to inquire about member involvement in RFP reviews• Victoria mentioned the Starting Over Vermont Program that DMH set up - https://mentalhealth.vermont.gov/sosvt• Coordinated Specialty Care program updates for First Episode Psychosis/Early Serious Mental Illness (FEP/ESMI; 10% Set Asides)<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ This work is ongoing. Currently working with an epidemiologist at the University of Vermont Medical Center to help provide data on the incidents of first episode psychosis in the State. Close to finalizing a contract with a consulting firm to start the early phase which includes research of programs that exist around the country. If you have questions about this work, please contact Steve DeVoe (Stephen.devoe@vermont.gov) or Carolyn McBain (carolyn.mcbain@vermont.gov)
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	One member noted that he and others find the use of the term Behavioral Health interchangeably with Mental Health is offensive.
MHBG Planning Council Overview	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tom Coleman, Vermont DMH (Contractor) • MHBG Planning Council Primer PowerPoint <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A PowerPoint was provided for the group. A new member orientation has been proposed to help new members understand the role of the MHBG Council and their responsibilities as Council members. Tom Coleman went through the proposed VT MHBG Planning Council Orientation with the members. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ This was one of the items that came out of the one-on-one meetings with Council members. ▪ Each new member will be provided with this guide and an orientation. ▪ Do we want to include a link to the orientation guide in these minutes? ○ It was asked if “serious emotional disturbance” and “serious mental illness” can be put in quotes when using to denote that we are using these terms only because they are the terms used by the federal government. • MHBG Planning Council Subcommittee Overview <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ At the end of this month a survey will be sent out to the group to assess the interest in subcommittees. ○ DMH will facilitate initial meetings to include process for selecting subcommittee chairs. ○ DMH will work with the MHBG Planning Council to determine how to best leverage subcommittee work.
Public Comment	No public comment.
Adjourn	Dan Towle made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Marla Simpson seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 2:18.