

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

7/21/2023

Mental Health Block Grant Planning Council Minutes

****FINAL****

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)

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: Christopher Rotsettis David Silverberg Kristin Brynga

Agenda

- 1:00 Introductions & Member Updates
- 1:10 Review May 2023 Meeting Minutes
- 1:15 MHBG Updates
- 1:35 MHBG Planning Council 1-1 Meetings Update
- 1:45 Public Comment
- 1:50 Wrap-up and Closing Comments
- 2:00 Adjourn

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Agenda Item	Facilitator/Timekeeper: Steve DeVoe; Minutes: Joanne Crawford
Introductions	Meeting called to order at 1:03.
DMH Updates	<p>Ramping up Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs) Planning Grant work that DMH received along with the Vermont Department of Health Division of Substance Use Programs. DMH has met with some Designated Agencies (DAs) who also have SAMSHA CCBHC grants: Clara Martin Center, Rutland Mental Health Services, Health Care & Rehabilitation Services, and Northeast Kingdom Human Services. The other 6 DAs also submitted CCBHC applications and they would hear in September 2023 if they received the grant. The State’s CCBHC Core Project Team is Laura Flint is Project Director, Nicole Distasio is the Policy Lead, Shannon Thompson is the Finance Lead, Steve DeVoe is the Mental Health Clinical and Quality lead, and Megan Mitchell is the Substance Use Clinical Lead. It began March 2023 and will go through March 2024. DMH is exploring possibility of applying to become a CCBHC Demonstration State. Vermont was one of 15 states that were selected for this round. DMH created a web page on the DMH website for folks to find more information.</p> <p>https://mentalhealth.vermont.gov/about-us/department-initiatives/ccbhc Manatt is the contractor working the DMH. If people have more questions they should feel free to email Steve to discuss.</p>
Member Updates	Tabled until the next meeting.
Recruitment	<p>-Mental Health Block Grant (MHBG) PC Chair/Vice-Chair. This group is still looking for someone to consider running for Chair or Vice-Chair.</p> <p>-At-large Members</p>
Review May 2023 Meeting Minutes	There was one change suggested regarding the attendees at the last meeting. Michael Hartman made a motion to accept with the change and Dan Towle seconded. The vote to approve was unanimous.
FFY 2024-2025 MHBG Application	Steve is currently working on drafting the FFY 24-25 Mental Health Block Grant application. The “big” application needs to be submitted every other year and a small application on the off years, so this year is the big application. Steve will send the group a copy of the application so they can provide input. There is a short turnaround time for reviewing an application of this size. Steve has scheduled for this group to review it between August 1-8. After this group reviews it, it will also need to be reviewed by the DMH Commissioner’s Office and the AHS Secretary’s Office. Steve will need a letter from the Chair by the end of August 2023 for the application.
SAMSHA MHBG Technical Assistance	<p>Steve submitted a request to SAMSHA for technical assistance on implementing a Coordinated Specialty Care (CSC) Program in Vermont using the 10% set aside for First Episode Psychosis award amounts.</p> <p>https://psychnews.psychiatryonline.org/doi/10.1176/appi.pn.2022.05.5.1 CSC is the identified evidence practice for people with first episode psychosis. We are one of two states in the US that does not have a Coordinated Specialty Care Program. Steve will send information on Coordinated Specialty Care Program to the group. There will be a lot of stakeholder input.</p>
MHBG Planning	Steve shared the document that Tom Coleman from the Maven Group sent to him which is an overview of the results from the 1-1 interviews. Some of the strengths that were shared were: 1) Consistent and strong facilitation, 2) Members care

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Council 1-1 Meetings Update	<p>about mental health, 3) Strong working relationship with DMH, 4) Moderate progress on performance monitoring, 5) Remote meetings enable participate, 6) MHBG PC is not burdened with process.</p> <p>The weaknesses that were shared were: 1) No clear on-boarding process, 2) Sporadic attendance, 3) Need for Better Organization, 4) Challenges in attracting non-state members, 5) Need for communication norms.</p>
Public Comment	<p>A member of the public was able to work Mass General hospital and have their daughter participate in a Coordinated Specialty Care program. She is much improved after being part of the program.</p>
Meeting Wrap-up and Closing Comments	<p>Steve will share a website for resources from the flooding.</p> <p>https://mentalhealth.vermont.gov/flood</p> <p>https://www.vermont.gov/flood#gsc.tab=0</p> <p>A minute of silence was held for those affected by the flooding.</p>
Adjourn	<p>Laurie Emerson made a motion; Victoria Hudson seconded the motion. The vote to adjourn was unanimous and the meeting was adjourned at 1:52pm.</p>