**6/10/2024**

**Adult State Program Standing Committee Minutes DRAFT**

**Present Members:** Ann Cooper (she/her)  Bruce Wilson Christopher Rotsettis (he/him) Dan Towle (he/him)

Lynne Cardozo Marla Simpson (she/they) Michael McAdoo Thelma Stoudt Zach Hughes (he/him)

**DMH/State Staff:** Lauren Welch (she/her)Eva Dayon (they/them) Samantha Sweet (she/her)

Chris Allen (he/him) Trish Singer (she/her) Elliott McElroy (she/her)

**Public:** Jessica Kantatan (she/her) Anne Donahue Aaron Kelly (CCBHC Steering Committee member) Brett Yates (Counterpoint)

**Agenda**

* 12:30 SPSC Business: Introductions and Review Agenda, Statement on public comment, Announcements, Vote on minutes
* 1:00 Update: Admin Rule on Agency Designation
* 1:20 BREAK
* 1:30 Leadership Update: NEW DMH Deputy Commissioner Samantha Sweet
* 2:30 Meet & Greet: Inaugural DMH Responsible Gaming Coordinator
* 2:50 Public Comment; Closing meeting business and planning next meeting agenda

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| **Agenda Item** | **Discussion** (follow up items in yellow)  **Facilitator:** Christopher Rotsettis |
| **Opening Committee Business** | Meeting **convened** at 12:31. **Quorum** was met. Reviewed agenda. Introductions were made.  **Announcements**   * Alyssum has a new Executive Director, Will Eberle. He was previously the Executive Director of Vermont Association of Mental Health and Addiction Recovery (VAMHAR). Gloria van de Berg will be retiring at the end of June. * Mad Pride celebration at Battery Park in Burlington on July 13th. * Lynne will be leaving her position as the Senior Advisor to the VT Communication Support Project and retiring as a practicing Communication Support Specialist. She will continue to coordinate the International Intermediary Forum which focuses on communication support programs around the world. * The following announcement does NOT apply to the State Program Standing Committees:   + ~~New rules for public meetings: Starting 7/1/24~~     - ~~Standing Committee meetings will now be recorded and posted online~~     - ~~There must be a human being (probably Lauren) present in the reserved physical space for the duration of the meeting~~ * Administrative Rule on Agency Designation passed through the Interagency Committee on Admin Rules   + A 6-week public comment period is active. See Eva’s presentation for more info.   **Minutes**  Lynne **motioned** to accept May Minutes. Marla **seconded**. All in favor. May Minutes were **accepted**.   * Procedure note: members may still vote to accept minutes even if they did not attend the actual meeting.   **Membership**   * The committee also discussed the ongoing membership of a member who has been absent for a prolonged time. Lauren will draft paper mail and email to get some closure on this issue * Lynne commented that the terms “no show” and “drop” should be replaced with more compassionate terms in the future |
| **Update: Admin Rule on Agency Designation** | *Eva Dayon (they/them), DMH Assistant Director of Quality (*[*eva.dayon@vermont.gov*](mailto:eva.dayon@vermont.gov)*)*  Update on Certified Community Based Health Center (CCBHC) application   * SAMHSA awarded 10 of 15 applicant states funding for demonstrating CCBHC model * [Biden-Harris Administration Expands Access to Mental Health and Substance Use Services with Addition of 10 New States to CCBHC Medicaid Demonstration Program | HHS.gov](https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2024/06/04/biden-harris-administration-expands-access-mental-health-substance-use-services-addition-10-new-states-ccbhc-medicaid-demonstration-program.html) * Vermont was selected as a demonstration state * More info to come in the near future   Administrative Rule on Agency Designation has entered public comment.   * [Rules | Department of Mental Health (vermont.gov)](https://mentalhealth.vermont.gov/policy-and-legislative-resources/rules) * Public comment period closes July 17th, 2024 @ 4:30pm * Send thoughts to Lauren, Eva, official submission, or thoughts can also be emailed to [AHS.DAILDDSDSOCPRegulations@vermont.gov](mailto:AHS.DAILDDSDSOCPRegulations@vermont.gov) * Formal meeting: Wednesday July 10th at 10am (hybrid meeting hosted at the Waterbury State Office Complex) * DMH can also support an *ad hoc* meeting for this committee to provide feedback.   + Any members who attend a public comment meeting session are eligible for stipend.   + Let Lauren or Eva know if you’d like a special meeting to provide feedback.   Review of Mental Health Bloc Grant   * Meeting with SAMHSA about the mental health system of care from individuals with lived experience and families on Wednesday, July 17 at 10:30am in the Weeks Building |
| **Leadership Update: NEW DMH Deputy Commissioner** | *Samantha Sweet (she/her), DMH Deputy Commissioner (*[*samantha.sweet@vermont.gov*](mailto:samantha.sweet@vermont.gov)*)*  Who is Sam Sweet?   * LCSW * In the department of mental health for almost 6 years * Started as care management director (breaking down barriers for Vermonters moving through mental health system of care) * Most recent role at DMH: Mental health director, non-appointed * Worked closely with commissioner and dept commissioner   Committee members introduced themselves.  Legislative Session in Review   * Slides attached * H878 continues to allow remote testimony for forensic mental health. This is important to DMH because remote testimony has allowed DMH to work through the backlog of forensic evaluations * S189 outlines guidelines for mental health response; there will be an opportunity for stakeholder engagement on what these guidelines should look like   + “guidelines” instead of “protocol” because guidelines allows a bit more flexibility in response to specific situations   + This is not a new initiative per se, but an extension of the enhanced mobile crisis project   + Guidelines are aimed at first responders to keep in their back pocket, but the state imagines that first responders (police, fire, etc) will not be responding in most mental health emergencies. Therefore, these guidelines aren’t comprehensive   Priorities for next Legislative Session   * Peer respite/community centers; can DMH support creating spaces like Alyssum or Pathways Community Center around the state?   + DMH is in support of these models; just need to find the funding   + Currently review an application from Pathways to establish a grant-funded peer respite (starting with 2 beds, maybe moving to 5 beds eventually) * Are there supports and programs for older parents (ex: in their 80s) of adult children with mental health/disabilities to transition care of those children as their parents age beyond the ability to care for them?   + DMH is also aware of the general aging of the population and is having conversations about caring for aging CRT population   + iCare: DAIL contracted with a nursing home that is equipped to care for clients with complex needs * Housing/homelessness crisis   + Different areas of the state are handling homelessness differently   + DMH encourages every DA to address housing in their work   + DMH Housing Coordinator is seeing more data and more applications for vouchers than ever * Intentional peer support in crisis response?   + 988 and mobile crisis staff will be trained in a version of IPS. Training is still in development * Suicide prevention meetings facilitated by Nick Nichols restarting?   Looking for standing committee member to participate on the interview panel for hiring Sam’s replacement. Job posting for Mental Health Director closes at the end of the day today (June 10)  Committee entered BREAK at 2:05 |
| **Meet & Greet: DMH Responsible Gaming Coordinator** | Committee reconvened at 2:15. Committee introduced themselves.  *Elliott McElroy (she/her), DMH Responsible Gaming Program Coordinator (*[*elliott.mcelroy@vermont.gov*](mailto:elliott.mcelroy@vermont.gov)*)*  Who is Elliott   * 15 years of previous work in mental health and substance use   + Worked with several DAs and the mental health and substance use treatment court   Responsible Gaming   * See attached slides * 1 in 4 people who engage in online/mobile gambling activities will develop a problem   + States who legalized mobile sports wagering have learned that there is a lag time of 12-18 months between legalization and the rise of calls seeking help for problem gambling * DMH’s goals are to provide education about responsible gaming and to develop services and treatments * Gamblers Anonymous is a peer support 12-step program to help people who have developed problem gambling. <https://www.gamblersanonymous.org/ga/locations> * Where does the revenue from gambling go in the state?   + Revenue from gambling is deposited in the newly established Sports Wagering Enterprise Fund. Portions of the revenue are applied to:     - Department of Liquor and Lottery for administrative and management work     - Department of Mental Health for the Responsible Gaming Program     - The Agency of Digital Services to establish and maintain a self-exclusion program     - Additional funds are transferred to the General Fund   + [GENERAL-370798-v1-H\_127\_An\_act\_relating\_to\_sports\_wagering\_As\_passed\_the\_General\_Assembly.pdf (vermont.gov)](https://ljfo.vermont.gov/assets/Publications/2023-2024-As-Passed-the-General-Assembly/6de1b3ea82/GENERAL-370798-v1-H_127_An_act_relating_to_sports_wagering_As_passed_the_General_Assembly.pdf) (Vermont Legislative Joint Fiscal Office, Fiscal Note related to H.127 – An act relating to sports wagering) * Follow-up info from Elliott   + Is there a difference in the risk of problem gambling based on income? Are people with the money to gamble more or less likely to develop problem gambling than people who don’t have the money to gamble?     - Recent research has shown that for mobile sports wagering specifically, people who are employed/with an income source are more likely to engage and more at risk for gambling addiction.   + Is Vermont treating gambling as a right or a privilege?     - Vermont is treating gambling as a right. There are no checkpoints, tests or barriers (other than being 21+) for someone in the state to engage in mobile sports wagering. The exceptions to this are if a person is on the Voluntary Self-Exclusion List, or if they fall into the category of a legislatively defined “prohibited sports bettor.” [No. 63 An act relating to sports wagering](https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2024/Docs/ACTS/ACT063/ACT063%20As%20Enacted.pdf)   + For more in-depth information on gambling attitudes and experiences in the US, I recommend reviewing the National Council on Problem Gambling’s (NCPG) National Survey on Gambling Attitudes and Gambling Experiences 2.0. [FINAL\_NGAGE2.0-text-charts.pdf (ncpgsurvey.org)](https://www.ncpgsurvey.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/FINAL_NGAGE2.0-text-charts.pdf) |
| **Public Comment** | Members of the public did not have any comments. |
| **Closing Meeting Business** | **Next meeting (July 8, 2024)**   * Prep questions for CSAC (10 mins) * Agency Designation Q&A: Counseling Service of Addison County (90 mins) * Draft Recommendation Letter to Commissioner   **Other Proposed Agendas**  August 12   * Light meeting, summer vacation * Quick Update: CCBHC   + Laura Flint, DMH Senior Evidence Based Practices Evaluator * Review Grievances & Appeals report   September 9   * Update on Suicide Prevention: Nick Nichols * Standing Committee System of Care Priority: Housing   + HomeShare, Communications Director?   + Adnan Duracak, DMH Housing Program Coordinator * Review Agency Designation Materials: Pathways Vermont   October 7   * Leadership Update: Peer Certification   + Trish Singer, Mental Health Operations Director * Agency Designation Q&A: Pathways Vermont * Draft Recommendation Letter to Commissioner   November 4   * Age Strong Vermont; hear from Director of Adult Services at DAIL * Leadership Update   + Emily Hawes, DMH Commissioner   + New Deputy Commissioner?? * Home and Community Based Services   + August Weems, Adult Care Manager   Ann **motioned** to adjourn. Lynne **seconded**. All in favor. Meeting **adjourned** 3:04PM. |
| **Links** | General Links  U.S. Department of Health and Human Services CCBHC Press Release: <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2024/06/04/biden-harris-administration-expands-access-mental-health-substance-use-services-addition-10-new-states-ccbhc-medicaid-demonstration-program.html>  DMH Admin Rules: <https://mentalhealth.vermont.gov/policy-and-legislative-resources/rules>  Responsible Gaming Links  Sports Wagering Statute: <https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/fullchapter/31/025>  Full Statute PDF: <https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2024/Docs/ACTS/ACT063/ACT063%20As%20Enacted.pdf>  Gambling Self-Assessment: <https://www.gamblingsupportbc.ca/support/self-assessment>  Responsible Gaming Tips: [https://vcpg.net/events-education/#tips](https://vcpg.net/events-education/)  Vermont DMH Resources: <https://mentalhealth.vermont.gov/services/adult-mental-health-services/services-and-supports-adults/problem-gambling-resources>  Joint Fiscal Office Report: <https://ljfo.vermont.gov/assets/Publications/2023-2024-As-Passed-the-General-Assembly/6de1b3ea82/GENERAL-370798-v1-H_127_An_act_relating_to_sports_wagering_As_passed_the_General_Assembly.pdf>  Gambler’s Anonymous: <https://www.gamblersanonymous.org/ga/locations>  Gam-Anon: <https://www.gam-anon.org/>  GamTalk: <https://www.gamtalk.org/>  Gamblers, Family, and Friends in Recovery: <https://www.gamblersinrecovery.com/>  Voluntary Self-Exclusion List: [https://liquorandlottery.vermont.gov/exclusion-list](https://liquorandlottery.vermont.gov/sites/liqlot/files/documents/VT%20Sports%20Wagering%20Procedures%2007-19-23.pdf)  Vermont Sports Wagering Procedures: <https://liquorandlottery.vermont.gov/sites/liqlot/files/documents/VT%20Sports%20Wagering%20Procedures%2007-19-23.pdf>  National Council on Problem Gambling Report: <https://www.ncpgsurvey.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/FINAL_NGAGE2.0-text-charts.pdf> |
| **Parking Lot** | Committee would like more opportunity to discuss housing. Ask the communications director of HomeShare to visit the committee to raise HomeShare’s awareness of mental health and reduce stigma)  Have Nick Nichols attend to update about the grant he oversees and plans for restarting the advisory group meetings. (20 mins?)  Age Strong Vermont; hear from Director of Adult Services at DAIL  Update on the opioid crisis in Vermont. Substance abuse and quality of life (especially since the pandemic) |



















































