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**3/15/2024**

**Mental Health Block Grant Planning Council Minutes**

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

**Present Members:**  Dan Towle (Chair)  Laurie Mulhern (Vice Chair)  Marla Simpson  Cinn Smith  Laurie Emerson (NAMI)  Daniel Blankenship (VHSA)  Kristin Brynga  David Silverberg

**Vermont Care Partners/DAs/SSAs:**  VCP Representative

**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 (VDH DSUP)  Tom Coleman  Beth Sausville (DCF)

**Public:**  Chrissy Rivers– Hannah’s House

**Agenda**

- 1:00 Introductions & Membership Discussion
- 1:15 Hannah’s House Overview
- 1:30 Review January 2024 Meeting Minutes
- 1:35 MHBG and Planning Council Updates
- 1:50 MHBG New Business
- 2:20 Public Comment
- 2:30 Adjourn

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| Agenda Item                                    | Facilitator/Timekeeper: Dan Towle; Minutes: Joanne Crawford  |
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| <b>Introductions and Membership Discussion</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Should the meetings be in Teams or Zoom. The group will discuss at the next meeting.</li> <li>• Introductions</li> <li>• Membership Discussion               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Recruitment (Ongoing)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>  |
| <b>Hannah’s House Overview</b>                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Who We Are</a></li> <li>• Chrissy Rivers, Executive Director</li> <li>• Hannah’s House has received MHBG funds.</li> <li>• Community support 5013c mental health resource service with offices in Waitsfield and Waterbury. Provide access to high quality mental health services in the Mad River Valley. It has been in operation for 14 years. The team currently consists of four affiliated therapists who are private practice, one psychiatric nurse, a therapy dog and 10 volunteer workers. Chrissy is the only employee of Hannah’s House.</li> <li>• Provides a space for licensed and pre-licensed therapists to serve the community.</li> <li>• Provide over 3400 individual therapy sessions each year, offer community based mental health services in groups.</li> <li>• Block Grant funds used for children who were on their waiting lists. Created groups for children in age groups. Licensed therapy would give them tools and toolboxes to work through their anxiety.</li> <li>• Provide educational programs in schools, mental health first aid, yoga, group drumming, etc.</li> <li>• They provide financial assistance provided to people who might not be able to afford counseling.</li> <li>• Help individuals get licensed to work in Vermont.</li> <li>• Track therapists unbillable time and Hannahs House reimburses them monthly.</li> <li>• MHBG Council expressed their thanks to Chrissy and Hannah House.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Review January 2024 Meeting Minutes</b>     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Draft of January 2024 Minutes</a></li> <li>• The members and partners portion of the minutes needs to be cleaned up and remove individuals who are no longer participating.</li> <li>• If members of this group would like more updates on the different funding streams, timelines, etc. please reach out to Steve.</li> <li>• There was a question about whether or not to keep the orientation presentation link in the minutes. It will be kept in but the member contact information in the presentation should be removed.</li> <li>• Marla made a motion to approve the minutes and Cinn seconded the motion. The vote to approve was unanimous.</li> </ul>  |
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| <p><b>MHBG and Planning Council Updates</b></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Request for proposals (RFP’s) Updates: Bipartisan Safer Communities Act (BSCA) and Special Projects             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Request for Mental Health Block Grant (MHBG) PC Representative for Disaster Mental Health Plan Steering Committee                 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ It is possible for a member of this group to be part of the RFP scoring process. Various members of the group could take part on a rotating basis.</li> <li>▪ Steve provided a link to the list of RFPs that is on the Department of Mental Health (DMH) website. <a href="https://mentalhealth.vermont.gov/RFP">https://mentalhealth.vermont.gov/RFP</a></li> <li>▪ One of the supplemental awards received was from the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act. Approximately \$140,000 annually and this award is meant to focus disaster mental health (human made or environmental). DMH wanted to update their disaster planning. All Clear Emergency Management Group was the vendor that was selected through the RFP process by DMH. They specialize in emergency preparedness and planning.                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Link to All Clear Emergency Management Group: <a href="https://allclearmg.com/">https://allclearmg.com/</a></li> <li>• Trying to form an internal steering committee. Would like someone from this group to be on the steering committee. Any member interested should reach out to Steve. Whether there is a member on the group or not, this group still has the ability to review information and weigh in on the work.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• Update on scheduled SAMSHA program review and potential outreach to MHBG Planning Council             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Monitoring visit from SAMSHA for the block grant.                 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ This is only a programmatic audit. There will be time for this group to interface with the SAMSHA team. This will happen in July for 3 days. Steve will get the dates to the group as soon as they are confirmed.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• Reminder and update on subcommittee formation – Call for volunteers             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Subcommittee formation                 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Several members of this group have stepped up to be on subcommittees. Now the subcommittees can start scheduling the initial meetings.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul> |
| <p><b>MHBG New Business</b></p>                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proposal to revisit the MHBG PC Council Charter and Operating Procedures             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Membership Provisions –                 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Looking at the MHBG Planning Council’s charter and operating policies and procedures documents and wondering how often these documents should be reviewed and updated. This could be another subcommittee. The group could look at the documents and discuss any changes at next meeting.</li> <li>▪ Currently there is a caveat in the State statute that every member of this planning council will serve for the duration of the Secretary. Maybe this council could define a certain time period for service</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>   |

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|                       | <p>and establish a reappointment process. Might not be able to get around having to do a technical appointment each time but we want to have a substantive reappointment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Link to Vermont Mental Health Block Grant Planning Council, Operating Policies and Procedures – Adopted June 21, 2019, <a href="https://mentalhealth.vermont.gov/sites/mentalhealth/files/doc_library/PC_OperatingProcedures_adopted_June_21_2019.pdf">https://mentalhealth.vermont.gov/sites/mentalhealth/files/doc_library/PC_OperatingProcedures_adopted_June_21_2019.pdf</a></li> <li>▪ Vermont Mental Health Block Grant Planning Council Charter – Steve will be sending this document to Dan and Laurie, as Chair and Co-Chair for a signature. Link to charter - <a href="https://mentalhealth.vermont.gov/sites/mentalhealth/files/doc_library/PC_Charter_09202022.pdf">https://mentalhealth.vermont.gov/sites/mentalhealth/files/doc_library/PC_Charter_09202022.pdf</a></li> </ul> |
| <b>Emails</b>         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When replying to Steve and Tom regarding meeting attendance, please do not use reply all, send email directly to them.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Next Meeting</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Next meeting is May 17, 2024.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Public Comment</b> | No public comment.   |
| <b>Adjourn</b>        | Marla made the motion to adjourn, and Anne seconded it. The vote to adjourn was unanimous.   |