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**5/17/2024**

**Mental Health Block Grant Planning Council Minutes**

**\*\*FINAL\*\***

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

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

**DMH:**  Eva Dayon (they/them)  Steve DeVoe (he/him)  Trish Singer (she/her)  Anne Rich  Joanne Crawford  Karen Barber  Laura Flint  Carolyn McBain  Tom Coleman (DMH Contractor)  Adrienne Wasserman (DMH Contractor)

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

**Public:**  None.

**Agenda**

- 1:00 Introductions & Membership Discussion
- 1:15 Review March 2024 Meeting Minutes
- 1:20 MHBG and Planning Council Updates
- 1:50 MHBG New Business
- 2:10 Public Comment
- 2:30 Adjourn

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Agenda Item	Facilitator/Timekeeper: Dan Towle; Minutes: Joanne Crawford
<b>Introductions and Membership Discussion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Introductions</b></li> <li>• <b>Membership Discussion</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Recruitment (Ongoing) – We will leave this on the agenda going forward. We have had a couple of resignations. We need to work on how to engage members of the public. Daniel Blankenship has resigned from the Mental Health Block Grant Council (MHBG Council). He was the Director of Homeless Programs and Policy for the VT Housing Authority. His role is one of the positions that needs to have representation on this Council per federal statute. Daniel recommended that we ask Shawn Gilpin, the Housing Division Director of the VT Department of Housing and Community Development about filling his role on the Council. Steve reached out to him but had not heard back. If anyone has any other recommendations, please reach out to Steve.</li> <li>○ Cinn has spoken to a couple of people who might be interested in joining the Council.</li> <li>○ The person now filling the Vocational Rehab and Hirability role is not attending the meetings, so Steve is working with this person to find a replacement.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Review March 2024 Meeting Minutes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Draft of March 2024 Minutes –</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Marla made a motion to approve the minutes. Victoria seconded the motion. The vote to approve was unanimous.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>MHBG and Planning Council Updates</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Update on scheduled SAMSHA program review and potential outreach to MHBG Planning Council</b> – SAMSHA is coming for a monitoring visit on July 16, 17, and 18. This is not a financial audit, only a programmatic audit. They will look at policies, procedures, systems of care and reports. Basically, they want to know how the State of Vermont conducts work related to the public mental health system. They would like to have an hour-long meeting with the Council members. They don't want to have Department of Mental Health (DMH) folks in attendance or the State Planner, in the hopes that the Council members will speak freely. This meeting does not need to be facilitated. The last monitoring visit from SAMSHA was in 2016. They are required to do a monitoring visit every 5 years, so this is part of their regular monitoring schedule. If any Council members have questions about this visit, please contact Steve.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Potential move of next MHBG PC meeting from July 19 to July 17 to coincide with SAMSHA site visit</b> – The Council agreed to change the date of their next meeting to July 17 so that it coincides with the visit from SAMSHA. Steve will resend the meeting invitation with the new date. Steve asked SAMSHA if they could send the questions ahead of time, but SAMSHA said no. Steve will check in with SAMSHA to see if there is a way that any Council member unable to attend on the 17<sup>th</sup> can still provide feedback. The meeting will not be recorded.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>Update on first subcommittee meetings held in April 2024</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ <b>Discussion of subcommittee notes –</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ There were 3 subcommittee meetings in April. There were 3 or 4 pages of brainstorming notes from these meetings.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Key Issues and Priorities<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Working with DMH to determine impact of changes to Open Meeting laws effective as of June 1</li><li>○ Need to identify subcommittee chairs.</li><li>○ To align with operating procedures, change language to label these as committees going forward.</li><li>○ Focus on recruitment and participation.</li><li>○ Suggestion by members: explore available sources for modes budgetary resources.</li></ul></li><li>● Brainstorming Highlights – Tom will send this information out to the group after the meeting today.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Data and Performance</li><li>○ Outreach</li><li>○ Advocacy</li></ul></li></ul></li><li>▪ Would like more participation in these subgroups.</li><li>▪ Tom Coleman and Adrienne Wasserman are resources for this work.</li><li>▪ Three more meetings are schedule in May:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● May 20 at 9:15 Data and Performance Subcommittee</li><li>● May 20 at 5:30 Outreach Subcommittee</li><li>● May 24 at 1:30 Advocacy Subcommittee</li><li>● If these times don't work for someone, please contact Tom and he will work with you.</li></ul></li><li>▪ SAMSHA was excited to see these subcommittees. This will help to make the work more meaningful and align with the work being done.</li><li>▪ If any of these subgroups need more support from DMH, please let Steve know. There are resources available to you.</li><li>▪ Using term “committee” rather than “subcommittee” going forward</li></ul></li></ul></li><li>● <b>Proposal to revisit the MHBG PC Council Charter and Operating Procedures -</b></li></ul> |
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Tom asked the group to look at the changes that are suggested and to provide feedback. In the next couple of weeks, figure out if the group should set up a workgroup or discuss the changes via email. Want to have revised draft by June 30. This is a living document that can be changed if necessary.</li> <li>● Recruiting for the MHBG Council             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Need additional language around the terms of the Council members. Technically, this is not a Governor appointment group, it exists by federal statute not a state statute. There is a state statute which allows appointments to be made at the Secretary’s level rather than go to the Governor. There are no term limits that Steve is aware of in state statute but technically when a Secretary changes, there is supposed to be reapplication for members of the Council. Steve is still getting clarity from an agency attorney on this subject.</li> <li>○ <a href="https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/section/03/053/03024">https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/section/03/053/03024</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>● There was a request from a Council member to add advocacy and support as an agenda item for the next meeting. Need to work on removing the stigma of mental health. <a href="https://www.psychiatry.org/patients-families/stigma-and-discrimination">https://www.psychiatry.org/patients-families/stigma-and-discrimination</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>Public Comment</b>	<p>At the next meeting provide an update on the Coordinated Specialty Care development work. Make it a standing item on the agenda. That program is the one aspect that this group is missing in their work.</p> <p>Steve let the Council know that a contractor has done background research and has written a report on Coordinated Specialty Care in general and on the implementation of a program in the State of Vermont. Steve will send this report out to the Council.</p>
<b>Adjourn</b>	<p>Laurie Emerson made a motion to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Kristin Brynga. Vote to approve was unanimous.</p>