

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

**10/20/2023**

**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  Sandi Yandow

**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

Agenda Item	Facilitator/Timekeeper: Steve DeVoe; Minutes: Joanne Crawford
<b>DMH Updates</b>	Mobile Crisis initiative will be launching statewide early 2024 (date to be determined). This initiative will be funded through a mix of state and federal funding. It will be a two-person team that will include a mental health professional and a Peer Support Specialist. DMH has new positions for mobile crisis-related work and has hired a new Crisis Director, Jeremy Therrien. DMH is also hiring a Mental Health Analyst to support this work. Finally, a new position was filled on the DMH Quality Team, Megan Shedaker.

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	DMH received a CCBHC State Planning Grant from SAMSHA for one year. DMH will be required to certify two agencies as CCBHCs before applying to become a CCBHC Demonstration State, but no final decisions have been made on whether to apply. Home and Community-Based Services (HCBCs) related work is ongoing. Vermont was put under corrected action by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to address conflict-of-interest issues for these services. See further information here: <a href="https://vermonthcbs.org/project-overview/">https://vermonthcbs.org/project-overview/</a>
<b>Member Updates</b>	A member provided an update from her department. The Department for Children and Family Services is struggling with high-end care, which is a huge draw on staff. Special response teams are being created. Those individuals will be trained. Please contact Beth Sausville for more information.
<b>Membership</b>	<p>Recruitment</p> <p>One individual is interested in being Chair but would like to have a Vice-Chair in place before accepting role.</p> <p>Federal statute requires at-large members, from several different agencies/organizations.</p> <p>Three more people have submitted their applications to join the MHBG PC as at-large members.</p> <p>The Mental Health Block Grant Operating, Policies and Procedure document was created in 2019. Steve is sharing for discussion by the council.</p> <p>Link to Operating Procedures for the Council link.  <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></p>
<b>Review July 2023 Meeting Minutes</b>	A motion was made by Daniel Blankenship to approve the minutes and Cinn Smith seconded the motion. The vote to approve was unanimous.
<b>MHBG Updates</b>	The FFY 2024-2025 application was submitted, which included the Annual Base award and Bipartisan Safer Communities Act (BCSA) award. The BCSA award is from 2022 legislation. It is four one-year awards. It is for trying to serve Vermonters to address disaster-related mental health. For this application cycle, the BCSA proposal was focused on Coordinated Specialty Care (CSC) program. It is for around approximately \$138,000.

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	<p>SAMSHA expects that MHBG Planning Councils will review the application and provide feedback. Steve asked for members to share what went well with the MHBG PC review process and what didn't go well? The only response was that the process is very time-consuming but rewarding.</p> <p>May want to involve more subcommittee involvement in MHBG PC work.</p> <p>CSC Program update for First Episode Psychosis/Early Serious Mental Illness (FEP/ESMI; 10% Set Asides for each MHBG award): DMH has been moving forward with creating a CSC, as Vermont is one of two states that does not have a Coordinated Specialty Care Program. SAMSHS said Vermont needs to establish a CSC to serve individuals with first episode psychosis. DMH is receiving technical assistance from SAMSHA. Carolyn McBain is the DMH lead on this project. DMH is looking at it in a phased approach. First, stake holder engagement meetings to collect information but also to provide information. This is meant to service anyone in Vermont, not just those served by the Designated Agencies (DAs). SAMSHA is expecting DMH to take an epidemiology approach to reporting on incidence of FEP in Vermont. There are existing models out there which DMH have been reviewing, in particular OnTrack NY is one program that has been around for a long time. DMH will conduct research and evaluation related to the incidents of first episode psychosis in Vermont.  <a href="https://ontrackny.org/">Link to OnTrack NY. https://ontrackny.org/</a></p> <p>Request for Proposals (RFPs) Updates: BSCA and Special Projects. Will be releasing an RFP update related to first BSCA Supplemental award. This will be to update the existing disaster planning documents (resource guide, etc.), which includes addressing any human-made or natural disasters. DMH has not historically had this type of plan on file. During the flooding this summer, the state emergency operation center was up and running and the State Emergency Management Plan guides that work. All disasters have a mental health piece.</p> <p>The other RFP will be the Special Projects Fund. More information will be provided at the next meeting.</p> <p>Site on website for the Mental Health Block Grant Council  <a href="https://mentalhealth.vermont.gov/about-us/boards-and-committees/state-mental-health-block-grant">https://mentalhealth.vermont.gov/about-us/boards-and-committees/state-mental-health-block-grant</a></p>
<p><b>MHBG Planning Council 1-1 Meetings Update</b></p>	<p>Discussion on next steps for implementation. Steve will be reaching out to all the council members to follow up to discuss next steps.</p>

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<b>Public Comment</b>	There was no public comment.
<b>Adjourn</b>	Cinn Smith made a motion to adjourn, and Daniel Blankenship seconded. Vote to adjourn was unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 1:54 pm.