

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

7/15/2022

Mental Health Block Grant Planning Council Minutes

****FINAL****

Present Members: Marla Simpson (Chair) Dan Towle (he/him) Alice Maynard C Rubin Cinn Smith Laurie Emerson (NAMI)
 Michael McAdoo Laurie Mulhern

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 Brian Smith Karen Barber

State of Vermont: Heather Bouchey (AOE) Danielle Bragg (DVHA) Diane Dalmasse (DAIL) Victoria Hudson (DCF) Annie Ramniceanu (DOC) Emily Trutor (she/her; VDH DSUP)

Agenda

- 1:00 Convene Meeting and Introductions
- 1:15 Review April 2022 Meeting Minutes
- 1:20 MHBG Planning Council Chair Discussion
- 1:45 MHBG Funding Updates
- 2:00 MHBG Training/Overview “101” from SAMHSA Break
- 2:05 Public Comment
- 2:10 Meeting Wrap-up/Closing
- 2:15 Adjournment

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Agenda Item	Facilitator/Timekeeper: Steve DeVoe; Minutes: Joanne Crawford
<p>Convene Meeting and Introductions</p>	<p>Meeting convened at 1:06 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Reviewed agenda. ● MHBG Planning Council Introductions. ● DMH Updates. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Shayla Livingston has transitioned to her new role as the Agency of Human Services Policy Director. ○ Nicole DiStasio is currently serving as the DMH Interim Policy Director; position is posted online and applications are currently being accepted; position should be filled by August 2022. ○ Eva Dayon is currently serving as the DMH Interim Assistant Director of Quality; position cannot be permanently filled at present due to Nicole DiStasio serving in their interim role. ○ DMH Quality and Program Participant Specialist position is currently vacant due to Eva Dayon serving in their interim role. ○ DMH Quality Management Coordinator position: DMH Team currently conducting interviews and positions will be filled by August 2022. ○ Pay grade inquiry by Dan Towle. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pay grades and step increases are set by Vermont Department of Human Resources and can be found online here. ● Member Updates. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ None.
<p>Review April Meeting Minutes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Alice requested amendment from “stack holder” to stakeholder. ● Dan raised question/comment about number of follow-up items from April minutes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Suggestion to add “follow-up items” section to meeting minutes to ensure tracking, monitoring, and follow up to any ongoing tasks. <p>Motion to accept April 2022 minutes made by Dan. Seconded Heather. No discussion. Majority in favor. None opposed. 1 abstention. Motion passes.</p>
<p>MHBG Planning Council Chair</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● History of Mental Health Block Grant Planning Council (MHBG PC) during the tenure of the current chair, Marla Simpson’s (<i>i.e.</i>, the last 8-9 years). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ MHBG PC’s work accelerated from SAMHSA’s previous technical assistance. ○ Impressed by dignity and evolution of MHBG funding to improve health and quality of care for children, youth, families, and adults. ○ Implementation of Results Based Accountability (RBA) framework to projects funded by MHBG. ○ Previously, Vermont MHBG funding was ~\$700k; presently, ~\$1.4 million with additional COVID-related funding streams. ○ Cinn Smith previously served as Vice Chair; Cindy Tabor was briefly co-chair.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Marla feels that this is an appropriate time to step down. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Alice: no one has been more dedicated to this work. ▪ Dan: joined ~6 years ago, been friend/mentor, helped train me as a peer, fantastic work colleague. ▪ Cinn: best facilitator and meeting agenda; generosity and kindness. ● Next steps for election of MHBG PC Chair and Vice Chair. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dan: Alice Maynard nominated; she expressed appreciation for the nomination, but needed to decline. ○ Please reach out to Steve DeVoe, DMH Director of Quality and Accountability, if any interest in serving in one of these roles (stephen.devoe@vermont.gov). ○ Discussion about next steps vis-à-vis Vermont Mental health Block Grant Planning Council Operating Policies and Procedures. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Marla Simpson will serve as interim chair through end of Calendar Year 2022. ○ Cinn Smith: this item should stay on agenda until these positions are filled. ○ Danielle Bragg: what is required of the Chair? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Chair and facilitate meetings. ▪ Letters disseminated by MHBG PC with the final approval/signature of the Chair and Vice Chair. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Annual letter to SAMHSA. ▪ Ensure understanding of and compliance with federal statute (42 USC [United States Code] § 300x) that governs use of MHBG funding. ▪ Assist with recruitment of members.
<p>MHBG Funding Updates</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Overview of SAMHSA MHBG Allocation Tables. ● Mandatory set asides (5% crisis; 10% early serious mental illness [ESMI], first episode psychosis [FEP]). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Open Dialogue/CNA overview. ○ Focus on how can DMH best support those who are experiencing signs/symptoms of EMSI/FEP. ● MHBG Budget Tracker. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ “Living document” that DMH is using to track the different funding streams of the MHBG <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ MHBG different funding streams (regular block grant, COVID supplemental, ARPA supplemental, etc.) and associated timelines overview to expend these respective funding streams. ○ Pathways, as well as other peer organizations, have received an additional 8% in funding ○ Request for reviewing this tracker at next meeting in August 2022.
<p>MHBG Training/ Overview 101</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Interest from MHBG PC Members for this training/overview. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Steve DeVoe will reach out to Steve Fry, previously Vermont’s SAMHSA Project Officer for MHBG, to inquire about the possibility of providing an overview of the block grant and its related federal regulations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Question from member regarding what is the historical reasoning for restriction of spending MHBG funding on prevention and promotion?

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emily noted that there is a 20% mandated set aside for the federal Substance Abuse Block Grant (SABG). • Discussion about restriction on MHBG for spending funds on prevention and promotion • Draft letter to Senator Sanders, who sits on the US Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, & Pensions. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Member noted that terms “SMI” and “SED” are offensive to some community members. ○ Danielle noted that DVHA uses “behavioral health” as an all-encompassing term that includes mental health, substance use (alcohol, drugs, nicotine), and eating disorders as a few examples.
Public Comment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None.
Meeting Wrap-up/Closing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow-up items from April 2022 to be discussed at August 2022 meeting. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Request to add “Follow-up Items” section within agenda and meeting minutes to ensure proper tracking and follow-up to identified tasks/items Meeting (see “Follow-up Items” section below and amend as needed). • Member inquired about the Substance Abuse Block Grant’s Planning Council, which is facilitated by the Vermont Department of Health, Division of Substance Use Programs, and their meeting schedule. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Substance Misuse Prevention Oversight and Advisory Council (Public Meeting) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ https://www.healthvermont.gov/alcohol-drugs/reports/public-meetings • Marla will continue to serve as MHBG PC interim chair until new calendar year (2023).
Follow-up Items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FY2020 MHBG Outcomes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Goal Number 8 and 9: Steve will be following up on this question and bring the answer to the next meeting. ○ Goal Number 10: Steve will also provide follow up on the 10% set aside which was led by Counseling Services of Addison County. • 2016 SAMHSA audit results of Vermont MHBG. • Create, finalize, and publish MHBG Planning Council Member list. • Identify next MHBG PC Chair and Vice Chair. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Draft letter to SAMHSA. • Review MHBG Budget Tracker. • Review and discuss Vision 2030 report. • Recruitment of community members.
Adjournment	<p>Motion to Adjourn</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alice moved to adjourn. Dan seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Abstentions none. Meeting adjourned at 2:33 pm.