

Minutes
Mental Health Planning Council
Housing Committee
Wednesday, September 27, 2017

Attendees:

- Chris Zabik , DMH-WM (via Telephone)
- Dennis McCrory, MD, MRC
- Joe Finn, MHSA (co-chair)
- Adrienne Cassidy, Advocates (co-chair)
- Jonathan Bowen-Leopold, DMH-CO
- Joel Danforth, DMH-CO
- Jeff Chasse, DMH-MB
- Virginia Griffin, Bay Cove HS
- Genevieve Mulligan, MAMH
- Gary Comeau, DMH-NE (via telephone)
- Megan Wiechnik, NAMI-MA
- Paul McPartland, DHCD
- Sue White, Vinfen
- Ruth Jacobs, Boston University (via telephone)
- Ken McIntyre, Bay Cove HS
- Kim Clougherty, DMH-CO
- Steve Rosenfeld, NAMI-MA
- Joe Vallely, DMH-CO

Minutes of Previous Meeting

The meeting was co-chaired by Adrienne Cassidy and Joe Finn. Adrienne called the meeting to order at 10:08.

The minutes from the May 17 meeting were presented and approved upon a motion by Sue White, seconded by Dennis McCrory.

DMH Housing Plan Update

The Commissioner continues to promote the housing plan in her meetings and public presentations. Linn Torto the Director of the Interagency Housing and Homeless Commission along with the Commissioner, met with DHCD Undersecretary Chrystal Kornegay to talk about the plan and the necessary support from the Legislature. The focus is on growing the program by \$1M each year for the next five years.

In addition the plan includes providing training to the field which is currently underway; re-use of c689 and c667 housing for purposes of DMH. DHCD is actively assisting with this effort most recently a c689 property housing 8 individuals was leased to DMH and its provider. And, working with EOHHS & DHCD to gain greater utilization of s811 vouchers, to this goal the criteria for tenant selection is being streamlined to enable broader utilization.

DMH RSP Expansion Efforts FY19

Danna was not able to make the meeting, Genevieve reported that MAMH is actively involved in on-going discussions with the Legislature about expansion and that the “People Are Waiting” Report which was delayed is now being updated and should be issued in the coming months. Danna will update the group at the next meeting.

Educating Stakeholders

Adrienne reported that she is working with Arthur Elis from the DMH-CM Area Office along with SMOC to present a housing “101” training on Oct 5 in Westborough. The training is complexly booked with about 50 people registered; it is a 3 hr. session rooted in housing as recovery, and will feature a Peer, overview of Sec.8 (Housing Choice Voucher Program), housing search, housing preservation, and fair housing. This is the first of five housing trainings that the Department is sponsoring in cooperation with providers and other housing stakeholders.

Dennis spoke about the on-going need for advocacy and suggested the group consider a possible seminar / training for the Legislature on the topic of housing people with mental illness. He suggests coming up with a new term to better convey the connection between housing and recovery, he offered “homing” but, encouraged others to lend their expertise to developing this concept.

DMH-RSP New Regulations

Kim spoke about the on-going work with DHCD to amend the DMH-RSP regulations. These changes will formally adopt the “one inspections” along with a self-renewing lease. The other significant change is the creation of a Tenant-Based subsidy that is tied to DMH Case Management which will support individuals who have progressed in their recovery to the point where they need little service from DMH. The program is now serving about 1,350 individuals with a budget of \$8.5M.

Old / New Business

The work of the Olmstead Committee continues, Joe stated that a draft document updating the 2008 plan is expected to be issued toward the end of the year. This document should further support the housing expansion efforts of DMH now and into the future.

Next Meeting: January 17@10AM at DMH Central Office.