

## Older Adult Behavioral Health Collaborative Meeting Notes

August 12, 2022

### Introductions

#### EMHOTs BH RFP

- Betsy Connell, MCOA
  - Going through data of semi-annual EMHOTs reports
  - Elder Affairs got sign off to post two RFPs today for the increased funds in final GAA signed by governor
    - RPF #1- open to new EMHOTs/ expansion to new ones
    - RFP #2- for innovation in BH for older adults (intention to explore/test innovation to provide supports in homes/communities despite limited workforce capacity)
  - **RFPs will be posted here:** <https://mcoonline.com/grants/bid-opportunities/>
  - Who is going to be informed of these requests for proposals? Are these entities that serve diverse populations going to be informed?
    - Need to get word out to organization that services diverse and underserved populations/communities
    - Email Betsy name of agency, contact person, etc. of any relevant agencies
      - Boston's Age Strong Commission → did a lot of diverse organization for their grants for social engagement (Kathy Kuhn)
      - FQHCs → do work with older adults and BH (Rob Walker)
      - Greater Boston Chinese Golden Age Center → Megan Cheung, MSW, LICSE, RN, Assoc. Dir. Clinical Dir. [mcheung@gbcgac.org](mailto:mcheung@gbcgac.org) (Debbi Cutler)
    - Areas of state that are underserved (Springfield and Cape Cod areas)- interesting to see response from those areas that are not currently served
    - Great to have agencies reach out, but stigma related to MH among older adults acts as barrier to individuals seeking help (recognize that different cultures view/address MH differently)
      - Opportunities for engagement (ex. Black churches)
  - How do we get these services to ALL older adults
- Grants provide opportunities beyond social workers (peer specialists, CBHCs, etc.)
  - CBHCs: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/community-behavioral-health-centers>
- Older adults tend to turn to faith leaders prior to BH provider
  - Innovation with faith leaders; coordination between both groups
  - Bring training to group of faith leaders
- What have been the most successful programs and could they be successful in underserved areas
  - Purpose of innovation RFP (EMHOTs models are great, but not the only successful models)
  - Is there a piece of EMHOTs that can be implemented/innovated that can be replicated elsewhere
- Are there any senior centers in MA that have innovative programs for BH?
  - Veronica B. Smith Center has started with to have weekly groups with new Age Strong Behavioral Health manager (Lauren Basler)
- Blue Cross RFP

- Interesting program to potentially bring to older adults; training for outreach workers
- Must have relationship with BH provider who will take any person who needs more support than the 5-sessions of the program
- Purpose to expand BH workforce
- <https://www.bluecrossmafoundation.org/grant/advancing-community-driven-mental-health>

Other topics

- OABHN looking at dates for in-person conference → reach out if you know of conflicts of My 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup>
- Continuing to work on white paper