

Older Adult Behavioral Health Collaborative Meeting Notes

July 8, 2023

- Collaborative is focused on identifying the BH needs of older adults, identifying service gaps, and exploring best practices in order to improve service delivery, fill gaps, and replicate and fund similar programs in MA
- The collaborative promotes prevention, outreach, wrap around peer and clinical supports and gatekeeping services; training and education; and partnerships on the local and state levels, as well as connection to the National Coalition on Aging and Mental Health

- Peer support into aging services
- Gabriel Fonseca and June Sauvageau (NILP)
 - Peer counseling project (PCP)
 - COAPS
 - Workforce development
 - Leader with lived experience, understanding, and understanding of aging process is key to COAPS (compassionate leadership is essential)
 - Serving over 30 older adults (through ASAPs providing COAPS services)
 - Currently have waitlist; need for increased workforce
 - Partnership with college allows to educate community; offer certifications/education
 - Need and assessment of getting peers involved
 - OA use of technology with support
 - Learned the peer specialists should play a role in OA becoming more “tech savvy”
 - Currently most work is done over the phone (or face to face) --> thinking about helping older adults use Facetime (or similar applications)
 - Pre-COVID: everything in person; Post-COVID: over the phone, etc.
 - Older adults have preferred over the phone (also allows for reaching those not able to reach via in-person communication)
- What would be helpful to grow the peer support workforce?
 - Expand program by providing services to those leaving the hospital, etc.
 - Peer bridging program --> bridging with the community/ activities
 - COAPS- challenge as whether Medicaid would see as “double dipping” (unknown; assumption)
 - TA centers: place to get information to about peer specialists, evidence-based practice
 - Assisting CBHC supporting Behavioral Health Helpline (?)
- Announcement of CBHC for Behavioral Health Helpline
 - Behavioral Health Help Ling: front door to behavioral health services, resources, and supports (will also follow up with caller to make sure connections were made)
 - Separate from 988
 - TA centers: place to provide information about peer specialists, evidence-based practice
- Operation Able (Debora Delman)
 - Hoping to get pilot program to match older adult peers with agencies
- State MH Planning Council Meeting

- Couple people reached out to Cassie regarding wanting to become a peer specialist
- Asked to present at DMH board meeting
- Each state gets block grant from SAMHSA (some restrictions on how it can be sent)
 - State MH Planning Council recommends how to spend block grant money
 - Individual at SAMHSA (Eric Weekly) want to come to MA in late Sept and look at first episode psychosis programs and older adult MH and interagency cooperation/collaboration
- Money in budget for EMHOTs
 - Not solidified until governor reviews/approves budget (full dollar amt unknown; likely more than FY22 but might not be as much as advocated for)
 - Elder Affairs will make decision on how to distribute funds
- August meeting agenda
 - Discuss and hear from individuals involved in EMHOTs
 - Likely that the budget will be doubled in FY23 budget compared to FY22
 - Presentation from AARP in September