

State Mental Health Planning Council Meeting Notes
(46 in attendance)

April 7, 2022

1. Welcome

Danna Mauch opened the meeting and welcomed those attending the meeting.

2. Expedited Psychiatric Inpatient Admissions (EPIA) Presentation

Kathy Sanders, the DMH Medical Director, presented information on the Expedited Psychiatric Inpatient Admissions efforts by DMH. The review included an overview of the program and selected results from CY 21 on those boarding in Emergency Departments (ED) for placements. Kathy also explained the challenges and activities during COVID. She fielded questions on Autism (referrals are not taken for single only placement locations) and treatment in ED (each ED is different). Slides from the presentation are available on the SMHPC website and were sent to attendees. <https://www.mass-smhpc.org/>

3. Commissioner's Update

The Commissioner discussed efforts to strengthen the outpatient systems as highlighted in the Behavioral Health Roadmap. It will take time to get components on board with the aim to go live in January of 2023. The Commission added a few points to the ED boarding discussion, with efforts around 24/7 community crisis approaches, outpatient community clinics, and bridging across inpatient, outpatient and community crisis. She discussed DMH's role beyond policy and into bridging work. The Commissioner discussed bids for the RFR for CBHCs being due in May, with a key piece being to deliver the right care in the community. The Commissioner also discussed the Governor filing another health care bill which is still under review. The link to the bill will be distributed and posted on the SMHPC website for those interested in learning more about the bill or wishing to advocate for certain components.

4. Legislative Update

Steve Cidlevich provided a legislative update, reminding participants that this is an election year which provides an opportunity to ask candidates about mental health issues. The budget season is underway and virtual meetings are being held. He also reminded attendees about contacting their state legislators since few lawmakers hear from constituents.

5. Presentation on Results from the Community Consumer Satisfaction Surveys by JSI

JSI presented results from the ACCS, PACT and family satisfaction surveys that were set in 2021. The results are posted on the SMHPC website and were sent to attendees.

<https://www.mass-smhpc.org/>

6. Other Items

Olivia Chiacchia, the former SMHPC Youth Co-Chair, discussed her involvement in a sitcom based on mental health group therapy. The sit-com hasn't been picked up yet, but one episode is being made.