

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

October 6, 2022

1. Welcome

Matt Griffin welcomed attendees and opened the meeting.

2. Steering Committee Update

Chip Wilder, via video, introduced himself as the new chair of the Steering Committee. He shared his thoughts on the Steering Committee, specifically providing the committees of the Planning Council more opportunities to collaborate. This would help address Planning Council needs and dual recovery needs.

3. Committee Updates

Committees of the Planning Council provided updates:

- Housing: The vision and mission statements were reviewed. Meetings are held bimonthly via Zoom with 30 to 40 people attending. Over 130 people are on the committee's email list. Work on DMH vouchers, Safe Havens, peer support and housing (what peers need regarding housing), and DMHRA was discussed. The committee also discussed increases in the DMH Rental Subsidy program funding. DMH Rental Subsidy Programs are one focus of the committee. Safe Haven work contributed to the contracting of three new locations this year. MAMH has been very helpful with this. Work included housing production and engagement with developers and the new building capacity for community living fund. This includes educating and encouraging them to be involved, building for the Community Fund, and budget for low threshold housing. The DMH Housing plan includes expanding subsidy program annually, roommate workgroup, and presentations from community leaders.
- State Young Adult Committee (SYAC): Reviewed the vision and mission statement as an advisory board to DMH. Stressed that the committee is young adult driven with a focus on outreach to increase group membership and reaching young adults. Those involved typically have lived experience and the committee encourages advocacy and equality. The committee's focus includes utilizing what young adults want to see at SYAC and be as inclusive as possible. Occasionally have guests (providers or adults) discuss specific topics. The committee is currently looking for co-chairs and anyone interested should contact Dev Kaplan. Anyone interested in the committee must be 16 years old or older. Youth Development Committee (YDC) is in a rebuilding phase.
- Professional Advisory Committee on Child, Adolescent, and Family Behavior (PAC): Discussed needs of adults dealing with recovery who are parents and

address their role as parents. This would include adding the parent piece when addressing the child. Also discussed focusing on parents with dual recovery needs.

- Other committees were not present to provide updates.

4. Legislative Update

Steve Cidlevich provided the legislative update. The focus was on state elections, with open races being more prevalent this cycle. The formal legislative session ended. The legislature is not meeting but working on supplemental budgets of approximately \$1.6 billion. One of the current administration's priorities is mental health but also working on an economic investment package. Both candidates for governor have discussed mental health in their campaigns. NAMI sent out a questionnaire to candidates in key races regarding mental health.

5. SAMHSA Visit Update

David Tringali provided a brief updated on the non- monitoring visit by SAMHSA to DMH. The visit went well, with SAMHSA providing positive feedback on DMH's First Episode Psychosis and Crisis Services programs and the meeting with members of the Planning Council's Older Adult Collaborative.

6. Commissioner's Update

The Commissioner shared her appreciation to Anne Whitman and Matt Griffin, both of whom are leaving their roles as co-chairs of the Planning Council. She discussed the collaborative work with agency partners (MassHealth, DPH, others) on the Community Behavioral Health Centers (CBHC) network and 24/7 BH help line which will achieve its schedule launch in January 2023. The Commissioner talked about expanding PACT on the adult side and posting for the first youth PACT model, with both part of the BH redesign. Eligibility of services through the help line are clinical in nature. The Commissioner mentioned that the Governor's supplemental budget addresses rental assistance and Safe Haven expansion and the creation of the Housing Trust Fund. Safe Havens are not covered by other funding sources. She discussed a proposal to create a Housing Trust Fund. She mentioned that, in House Ways and Means, capital dollars would be dedicated to support providers to develop capacity in the community in terms of construction.

7. Older Adult Collaborative Presentation

The Older Adult Collaborative presented the work it does. See the accompanying PowerPoint Presentation. The Collaborative's next meeting is October 14. The presentation provided information on the focus of the Collaborative (those 55 plus; 25% have MH condition; SA is higher in this group 31%, 40-50% Depressive events). The group includes many organizations. In-home counseling is a focus and cultural, housing, legal and peer support. The Collaborative was involved in the campaign to double budget, workforce development, webinars for older adults, public education to providers and the public, mindful aging, and diversity and inclusion. It welcomes the opportunity to work with other Planning Council committees.

8. Nominating Committee

David Tringali mentioned that the Nominating Committee is meeting in two weeks to fill the co-chair vacancies left by Anne and Matt. Those interested in nominating anyone to either positions or self-nominating should contact Bobbi Spofford (bobbi.spofford@mass.gov) or David (david.tringali@mass.gov).