

## **State Mental Health Planning Council Meeting**

**July 11, 2024**

**49 Attendees**

SMHPC Co-chair Anna Cady Clouse was the facilitator for this meeting.

### **Anna and David Welcomed Attendees and Provided Announcements.**

- David informed the Council that Matt Griffin's term ended as Youth Chair. A letter from the Commissioner was shared with the group in regard to the group regarding Matt's commitment to the Council.
- Anna Cady Clouse was announced as the New Youth Chair.
- The Block Grant Mini-Application has been released. DMH will provide a near final draft for the Council review on the SMHPC and DMH websites for comments. A notification email will be shared to the Council when the draft is available.

### **DMH Southeast Area Staff Discussed DMH Southeast Area First Episode Psychosis Activities – DMH Southeast Area Staff.**

- Sue Plasse, Area Director, introduced her team and their presentation incorporated various topics such as:
  - Information on integrated mental health centers and early psychosis services in Massachusetts,
  - Prevalence and treatment of early psychosis,
  - The Navigate Model,
  - Information on Corrigan CSC objectives, eligibility requirements for FEP, referral and consultation processes plus Outreach, Education & Engagement initiatives,
  - Role description and responsibilities of each personnel on the CSC team.

### **The Council Received the Commissioner's Report.**

Deputy Commissioner Beth Lucas provided updates on the following:

- The budget is near its final stages. It has been approved and signed and still waiting for other components. For DMH, inpatient services are being recognized for operational costs. DMH continues to ask questions about inpatient operations to make sure the legislature has all the information.
- Regarding Steward Hospital situation, there is an active bidding process to assume ownership of the hospital system that is closing. DMH is involved with DPH, EOHHS, and other agencies to ensure continuity of healthcare services. Inpatient licensing team and Commissioner's office are also participating in keeping tabs.
- There is a new office at DMH: Office of Behavioral Health Prevention and Promotion. This office aims to have a population health perspective to promote mental health

and is a response to the Implementation of the Addressing Barriers to Care Act. Dr Funmi Aguocho will serve as Assistant Commissioner of this office.

- **Action Item:** Invite Dr. Aguocho to attend SMHPC meeting and potentially speak on key focus areas and share the initial plans

#### **Subcommittee Chairs Reported on Committee Updates.**

- Jill Gichuhi from the Housing Subcommittee announced three newly elected co-chairs: Kate Alicante, Ben Bailey, and Katie Ryan. The subcommittee will take the summertime off to regroup surrounding goals for the remainder of the year.
- Colby Mills from SYAC shared the vision board and advancing mission and vision statements. Expressed interest in getting into panels and discussions to uplift youth voices in public settings.
- Izzy Marchand also shared that past SYAC members join in previous meetings to share their work opportunities post-SYAC participant. Izzy and Colby both discussed strategic sharing and its impact.
- Cassie Cramer provided an update that that the Older Adult Behavioral Health Network and Collaborative were key informants to the U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging in developing its report, The Consequences of Clutter: How Hoarding Disorder Affects America's Older Adults, First Responders, and Their Communities You can find the report here:  
[https://www.aging.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/the\\_consequences\\_of\\_clutter.pdf](https://www.aging.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/the_consequences_of_clutter.pdf)