

**Adult Behavioral Health Planning Council
Meeting Minutes**

Meeting Day/Date:	Thursday, November 13th, 2025 2:00 – 4:00 PM	
Location:	Teams	
Members Present:	Peter Tolisano, Laura Watson, Jennifer Abbatemarco, Rita Natale, Will Erdman, Katherine Gallo, Giovanna Mozzo, Elsa Ward, Allyson Nadeau, Allison Fulton, Kate Bohannon, Ellen Econs, Kathy Flaherty	
Staff Present:	Kyle Barrette, Liz Feder, Sarju Shah	
AGENDA ITEM:		ACTION
CCAR Young People and Family Services: TJ Aitken, Tamara Steele	TJ and Tamara presented on the Friends and Family programming based within their Recovery Community Centers throughout the state, including support groups, recovery meetings, recovery coaching, and arts and wellness activities. These services are targeted to friends and family of people that are in recovery, to provide them with support, education, and community. TJ noted that anyone interested in learning more about these services and programs can contact him directly to learn more and connect to a location nearest them.	Kyle to send out TJ’s contact information and presentation slides
Block Grant updates: Kyle Barrette, DMHAS	Kyle provided updates on the FFY 2026 federal budget process and how this is impacting the Mental Health and Substance Use Block Grants. The President’s proposed FFY26 budget calls for a consolidation of the Mental Health and Substance Use Block Grants and reduces overall funding by \$500 million for these grants. However, House and Senate appropriations bills are not in line with the president’s budget. The House and Senate bills would keep the Mental Health and Substance Use Block Grants as separate grants and increase overall funding for both grants by \$5 million. These appropriations bills are still being debated and we have yet to see a final approved spending bill that identifies block grant funding amounts for FFY26.	Kyle to share presentation slides
Planning Council business: Will Erdman, Chairperson	Will discussed the idea of holding an in-person social event so that Planning Council members could connect and get to know one another outside of the quarterly meetings. Will requested ideas for a space to hold the event and timeframe. Sarju Shah recommended a Sober Café in Meriden as a central location and a business that supported sober living and recovery. Members agreed with this location.	Will and Kyle will follow-up with members to identify a date and time for the social event
Next Meeting:	February 19th, 2026, 2:00-4:00pm via Microsoft Teams	