

**Adult Behavioral Health Planning Council  
Meeting Minutes**

<b>Meeting Day/Date:</b>	Thursday, March 14, 2024   2:00 – 4:00 PM	
<b>Location:</b>	Teams	
<b>Members Present:</b>	Peter Tolisano, Laura Watson, Allyson Nadeau, Jennifer Abbatemarco, Allison Fulton, Maureen O’Neil Davis, Ellen Econs, Kathy Flaherty	
<b>Staff Present:</b>	Kyle Barrette, Sarju Shah, Liz Feder, Dana Begin, Elsa Ward	
<b>AGENDA ITEM:</b>		<b>ACTION</b>
<b>Block Grant Update:</b> Kyle Barrette	<p>Kyle provided updates on FFY24 block grant budget. Due to federal budget impasse, states have yet to receive their final FFY24 allocation of the Mental Health Block Grant (MHBG) or Substance Use Block Grant (SUBG). The spending bills currently being debated in the House and Senate only include flat funding from FFY23 and that is what we are expecting.</p> <p>Once DMHAS receives confirmation of Connecticut’s FFY24 MHBG and SUBG award amounts, DMHAS will finalize the allocation (spending) plan for both grants. An overview of these plans will be presented at the next Planning Council meeting.</p>	
<b>Focusing on Civil and Human Rights within Mental Health:</b> Kathy Flaherty	<p>Kathy provided a presentation on a new report released by The World Health Organization on Civil and Human Rights within Mental Health. Kathy discussed ways in which Connecticut is in line with some of the report recommendations and ways in which the state needs to continue to grow and change to have a human rights approach with the mental health system.</p> <p>Kathy responded to questions after the presentation regarding how individuals with a section housing voucher or section 8 unit can potentially lose their housing while in residential care. Kathy provided an overview of mechanisms that can help individuals retain their housing while in care and how the intake process within residential programs should include assessment of whether an individual has a housing voucher and development of a plan for that to be retained while they are receiving care.</p>	Kathy will send out presentation slides to interested members
<b>Co-Occurring disorders discussion:</b> Angela Duhaim	Angela unable to join for today’s meeting. Presentation on Co-Occurring Disorders will take place at next meeting and be led by DMHAS staff	DMHAS staff to present at next meeting
<b>Planning Council By-Laws:</b> Kyle Barrette	Kyle presented draft by-laws for the Planning Council that were sent out to members for review and feedback on February 26th. The by-laws were developed using resource materials from SAMHSA and based on by-laws of states with similar behavioral health systems. Kyle sought feedback and recommendations from members.	Kyle will make suggested changes to by-laws and send out to Planning Council members for final review and feedback.

		Planning Council will move to vote on by-laws at next meeting once comments and suggestions have been incorporated.
<p><b>DMHAS Update:</b> Sarju Shah, Director, Prevention Services Division</p> <p>Dana Begin, Director, Evidence Based Practices and Grants Division</p> <p>Elsa Ward, Director, Office of Recovery Community Affairs</p>	<p>Sarju provided updates on new Prevention initiatives and projects. Sarju discussed an upcoming Prevention Summit to take place in October that will provide learning and professional development opportunities for Preventionists and coordinators.</p> <p>In place of Dana, Kyle provided updates regarding Early Detection and Engagement Specialists (EDACs) that have been placed in each service region of the state that will be working closely with community stakeholders and providers to identify individuals early in the course of psychosis to connect them with appropriate care as quickly as possible. In collaboration with Yale, DMHAS has also launched the MindMap campaign to help raise awareness about early psychosis, reduce stigma, and provide information about treatment resources. Information about the EDACs can be found on the MindMap website: <a href="https://mindmapct.org/">https://mindmapct.org/</a>. Dana also shared an update the state’s new Peer Respite program will begin it’s contract on April 1<sup>st</sup> and should begin accepting clients shortly thereafter. The program will be based in New Britain.</p> <p>Elsa provided updates about the “Recovery Happens Here” media campaign. Elsa discussed the success of the first campaign that launched in 2023 and discussed that the campaign will be starting up again in 2024 with block grant funding. The campaign will continue to highlight the personal stories of individuals in recovery, to normalize and de-stigmatize recovery, and provide information and community resources for individual in the recovery community.</p>	
<p><b>Meeting Planning:</b> Kyle Barrette</p>	<p>Group discussed moving the date of next meeting to May 9<sup>th</sup> to ensure members have sufficient time to review the block grant allocation plans before they are submitted in late June. Group was in approval of changing the date.</p>	<p>Kyle will send out email to members asking if there are any conflicts for the date of May 9<sup>th</sup>. If not, Kyle will change the date of the next meeting and send out updated calendar invites for May 9<sup>th</sup>.</p>
<p><b>Next Meeting:</b></p>	<p>May 9th, 2024, 2:00-4:00pm via Microsoft Teams</p>	