

**Adult Behavioral Health Planning Council  
Meeting Minutes**

<b>Meeting Day/Date:</b>	March 30, 2023   2:00 – 3:30 PM	
<b>Location:</b>	Teams	
<b>Members Present:</b>	Peter Tolisano, Elsa Ward, Allison Nadeau, Allison Fulton, Frank Gregory, Pam Mautte, Michaela Fissel, Angela Duhaime	
<b>Staff Present:</b>	Kyle Barrette, Chrishaun Jackson, Liz Feder, Erika Echeverria, Sarju Shah	
<b>AGENDA ITEM:</b>		<b>ACTION</b>
<b>New Chair Appointment</b>	Angela Duhaime, Executive Director of SERAC, appointed as the Adult Behavioral Health Planning Council Chair	
<b>Block Grant Update:</b> Kyle Barrette, Block Grant State Planner	<p>The Combined Block Grant application is due by September 1, 2023. This will include a full assessment of the strengths, capacity, gaps, and needs of the overall behavioral health system, which will be reviewed by the Planning Council and submitted to SAMHSA. The assessment will inform DMHAS plans for the block grants.</p> <p>We plan to have the RBHAO regional priority reports and the statewide synthesis report from CPES to present and discuss at the next Planning Council meeting.</p> <p>We plan to create a survey for council members to participate in that asks about the gaps and needs across our system, so that Council member voices can be included in the gaps/needs assessment submitted as part of the block grant application.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Allison Fulton</b> suggested to pull questions from the guidance document that the RBHAOs are using to complete their regional priority reports. These questions are related to mental health, substance misuse, and problem gambling.</li> <li>▪ <b>Michaela Fissel</b> voiced her opinion regarding nonprofit organizations who may rarely be involved in the process and that this would be a chance to hear “their” voice.</li> </ul> <p>SAMHSA requires that states identify priority areas to work on as part of the application. These areas are identified through goals/objectives that are developed around each of the priority populations of the BG (<i>see attached power point</i>). Planning Council to review discuss goals/objectives during next Planning Council meeting.</p>	<p>Kyle will forward resources from SAMHSA with regards to definitions/language (SMI, etc.)</p> <p>Kyle will prepare and draft survey based on the regional priority report guidance document and send to Planning Council members for review/edits/comments.</p>

<p><b>Block Grant Budget Update:</b>          Kyle Barrette, Block Grant State Planner</p>	<p>The presidents proposed budget for fiscal year 2024 was released in March. The proposed budget significantly increases federal funding for both the mental health and substance abuse block grants by about \$700 million for each block grant. Although there is the potential for the presidents proposed budget to be passed, based on previous years experience the increases to state block grant allocations are likely be much smaller than what is proposed.</p> <p>New initiatives/changes to the Block Grants are included in the President’s proposed budget:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The <b>Substance Abuse Block Grant</b> will be renamed to the <b>Substance Use Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Block Grant (SUPTRS)</b>.</li> <li>▪ A new set aside of 10% for recovery support services (<i>see attached power point</i>).</li> <li>▪ A new set aside of 10% for mental health prevention/early intervention programming</li> </ul> <p>Kyle opened floor for discussion regarding needs that Planning Council members are seeing that could be addressed with increases to block grant funding.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Substance Use related needs?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ More resources made available to Social Emotional Learning (SEL), or enhancing what is already available</li> <li>▪ Holistic approaches to stress/addiction/wellness (more non-clinical and wellness programming/staffing)</li> <li>▪ Family/Parenting support groups (MH/SU awareness/education, social activities)</li> <li>▪ Alternative recovery methods</li> <li>▪ Trauma informed supports/initiatives (as a MH/SU Prevention strategy)</li> <li>▪ Other types of pro social supports</li> <li>▪ Targeted recovery resources for young adults</li> <li>▪ Enhance services for young adults</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b>Mental Health related needs?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Education regarding serious mental illness (how to define, verbiage, etc.)</li> <li>▪ Michaela Fissel raised concern related to the use of the term serious mental illness to categorize or label individuals and requested to participate in the crafting of the education and language to be used</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<p><b>DMHAS Update:</b>          Elsa Ward, Director, Office of Recovery Community Affairs</p>	<p><u>Elsa Ward</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ State working towards have a single Peer certification process. An advisory committee working on this recently had their final meeting and is currently preparing recommendations for DMHAS regarding the certification. Subject matter expert</li> </ul>	

<p>Erika Echeverria, BHPM, Evidence Based Practices Division</p>	<p>committee is now meeting to finalize questions that will be included in the exam used for the certification process. Elsa noted that SAMHSA has recently released their own Peer Certification process and can be used to inform Connecticut’s process.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Currently conducting outreach to providers and stakeholders throughout the state and has the goal of reaching all parts of the state. If groups/providers are interested in meeting with the Office of Recovery Community Affairs, Elsa requested that they reach out to her directly.</li> <li>▪ Elsa provided an overview of the calls that her office has been receiving and shared that she mostly receives calls from families who have a family member with active substance use and who are looking for resources and supports. Elsa noted that more family supports would be helpful for these families (groups, education, etc.).</li> <li>▪ The DMHAS webpage for the Office of Community Affairs has recently been updated to include new information and initiatives (<a href="https://portal.ct.gov/DMHAS/Divisions/Divisions/Recovery-Community-Affairs">https://portal.ct.gov/DMHAS/Divisions/Divisions/Recovery-Community-Affairs</a>)</li> </ul>	
<p>Sarju Shah, Director, Prevention and Health Promotion Division</p>	<p><u>Erika Echeverria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ There has been an increase in the call volume for 988 and the percentage of calls answered in an average of 4 seconds is at 98%. We continue to have conversations to explore text and chat services for 988. The governor’s budget has proposed \$2.2 million for fiscal year 2024 and \$3.1 million for fiscal year 2025 to support 988. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Council members raised questions regarding whether data was being collected on calls to 988 and what were the common reasons people were calling. Erika noted that DMHAS/United Way are collecting data on the types of calls being received, demographics, and the needs individuals are presenting with.</li> <li>○ Council members asked if any data on 988 calls could be shared with the RBHAOs.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Mobile Crisis teams are working to expand their hours to 24/7. Some teams are already there but DMHAS is hoping to have all teams operating 24/7 by September 21<sup>st</sup> 2023.</li> <li>▪ DMHAS is currently planning to add crisis stabilization units and peer respite programs to the Crisis Continuum of Care in Connecticut.</li> </ul> <p><u>Sarju Shah:</u></p>	<p>Erika will look into what data she may be able to share with the RBHAOs regarding 988 calls</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Prevention division is currently working with the RBHAOs to get the regional priority reports drafted by April with the hopes of sharing with DMHAS and the Planning Council in June.</li> <li>▪ In 2021, the Prevention Division was identified as the team that would be supporting cannabis prevention activities for DMHAS. The Prevention Division has partnered with the Alcohol and Drug Policy Council and developed a cannabis workgroup. We have also developed the “Be in the No” education and awareness campaign. The goal is to educate and inform about the legal use of cannabis as well as prevention messages. The campaign can be found on <a href="https://beintheknowct.org/">https://beintheknowct.org/</a>. Prevention Division planning to distribute lock bags to provide safe storage for cannabis through the mobile clearinghouse.</li> <li>▪ DMHAS received \$6.25 million from Samsung for the Partnerships for Success grant which focuses on reducing underage drinking. The RFP process has been completed and is currently going through negotiations with hopes of starting in April. The 12 communities with high focus for this grant are East Windsor, Bolton, Stamford, South Windsor, East Haven, Ansonia, Derby, Ashford, Brooklyn, Chaplin, Southbury, and Thomaston.</li> <li>▪ The Prevention Division has partnered with the State Education Resource Center (SERC) to develop a prevention, education and advocacy resource library with the goal to provide prevention materials and evidence based curriculum to K-12 students. SERC is currently moving to Waterbury where the library will be located.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>New Programs/ Services Initiatives:</b> Kyle Barrette, Block Grant State Planner</p>	<p>Brief updates provided on the following initiatives (see attached PowerPoint)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Transit Homeless Outreach Program (Transit HOP)</li> <li>▪ Access MH for Moms (<a href="https://www.accessmhct.com/">https://www.accessmhct.com/</a>)</li> <li>▪ First Episode Psychosis (Project 169)</li> </ul>	
<p><b>2023 Meeting Planning:</b> Council</p>	<p>Question was raised regarding whether to increase future meetings to 2 hours. Some council members were in support. No members voiced opposition.</p> <p>Council discussed continued efforts to expand membership. A pamphlet has been created that explains the Planning Council for individuals interested in joining.</p>	<p>Kyle will increase future meetings to 2 hours</p> <p>Kyle to resend Planning Council pamphlet</p>

		Council members to send agenda items to Kyle and Angela ahead of next meeting.
<b>Next Meeting:</b>	June 8, 2023   2:00 – 4:00 pm	