

**Adult Behavioral Health Planning Council
Meeting Minutes**

Meeting Day/Date:	June 8, 2023 2:00 – 3:30 PM	
Location:	Teams	
Members Present:	Peter Tolisano, Angela Duhaime, Michaela Fissel, Chlo-Anne Bobrowski, Allison Fulton, Kathy Flaherty, Jennifer Abbatemarco, Laura Watson, Pamela Maute, Allyson Nadeau, Ellen Econs	
Staff Present:	Kyle Barrette, Sarju Shan, Dana Begin, Jennifer Sussman, Elizabeth Feder, Elsa Ward	
AGENDA ITEM:		ACTION
Regional Prioritization Results: Jennifer Sussman, Center for Prevention Evaluation and Statistics (CPES)	<p>Jennifer Sussman presented aggregate findings from the DMHAS Regional Prioritization Reports complete by the RBHAOs. Jennifer highlighted the top priorities for mental health, substance use, prevention, and problem gambling as identified through the regional prioritization process. This is a data driven report of the RBHO’s work and the BG process which entails both the DMHAS and RBHO’s planning and defining regional priorities and making recommendations.</p> <p>Power Point attached</p>	CPES will present aggregate findings from the Regional Prioritization reports at next ADPC meeting, to further disseminate findings and recommendations
Planning Council Survey Results: Kyle Barrette, DMHAS Angela Duhaime, Chair	<p>Kyle Barrette and Angela Duhaime presented findings from the behavioral health needs survey completed by planning council members. The survey was conducted to provide the council with specific input into the behavioral health needs assessment process and to inform planning efforts for the Mental Health Block Grant and Substance Use Prevention, Treatment and Recovery Services Block Grant. The information from the survey will be incorporated into the behavioral health needs assessment, along with the regional prioritization results, as part of the biennial combined block grant application.</p> <p>Power Point attached</p>	DMHAS will incorporate survey findings within the behavioral health needs assessment currently being prepared
Overview of Serious Mental Illness: Kyle Barrette, DMHAS	<p>Based on previous questions from Planning Council members regarding Serious Mental Illness (SMI), Kyle Barrette presented on the history and definition of the term SMI. The Center for Mental Health Services initially developed the definition of Serious Mental Illness as a way to both identify the target population for the Mental Health Block Grant and to allocate funding to states. The current definition for SMI is someone over the age of 18 who currently has or had within the past year, a diagnosable mental behavior, or emotional disorder that causes serious functional impairment that substantially interferes with or limits one or more major activities, including basic daily living and instrumental living. Kyle provided an overview of the most common diagnoses associated with SMI.</p>	

	Power Point attached.	
<p>Internalized Stigma and Illness Identity: Michaela Fissel, Advocacy Unlimited</p>	<p>As a follow-up to the presentation on SMI, Michaela Fissel presented on illness identity and internalized stigma. Michaela presented experiential knowledge and research showing that diagnostic terminology such as SMI, and the association or categorization of individuals using these terms, can contribute to negative societal perceptions regarding mental health and contribute to negative self-beliefs among individuals. Michael presented on the importance and impact of the language we use related to Mental Health, and the importance of updating current language to be less stigmatizing and more person centered.</p>	<p>Michaela will present and lead a discussion on alternative language at the next Planning Council meeting.</p>
<p>Block Grant Update: Kyle Barrette, DMHAS</p>	<p>Kyle discussed the current work block grant work taking place. Kyle noted that the combined block grant application will be released by SAMHSA in July and is due September 1, 2023. The plan is to have the draft application completed and open for public comment and planning council review by August 17, 2023.</p>	
<p>DMHAS Update: Sarju Shah, Director, Prevention and Health Promotion Division, DMHAS</p> <p>Elsa Ward, Director, Office of Recovery Community Affairs, DMHAS</p> <p>Dana Begin, Director, Evidence Based Practices Division, DMHAS</p>	<p><u>Sarju Shah – Prevention Update:</u></p> <p>The Prevention Division was awarded a Partnership for Success Grant (related to alcohol prevention), and the RFP has been completed. This award is \$6.25 million for over 5 years. The Prevention Division has also been awarded additional funding for Prescription Drug Overdose, and the Garrett Lee Smith Campus Suicide Prevention Grant, totaling \$7 million for over the next 5 years.</p> <p>Sarju also introduced Prevention Division staff to the Council to help build connections and provide an overview of the Division’s work.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Denique Whitmore Lewis was introduced as a new Prevention Division staff member and the new lead for cannabis prevention related activities; • Andrea Duarte handles mental health promotion, works with our RBHAO’s, and works with 988; • Kelly Edwards supports the opioid prevention work, and work related to young adults; • Stephanie Welch leads the discretionary funds, Partnership for Success, PCC, and alcohol related activities <p><u>Elsa Ward – Office of Recover Community Affairs Update:</u></p> <p>The office is currently working with stakeholders on finalizing the Peer Certification language and process for the state.</p> <p><u>Dana Begin – Evidence Based Practices Update:</u></p>	

	DMHAS was recently informed of a funding opportunity from SAMHSA for continued support for 988. Connecticut is eligible for \$2.25 million each year for the next 3 years.	
Meeting Planning: Angela Duhaime, Chair	<p>Angela led a discussion on meeting planning for the rest of the 2023 planning council meeting series. Angela requested suggestions for future presentations and agenda items be sent to her and Kyle Barrette.</p> <p>Angela discussed the need to change the date of the next planning council meeting so that the combined block grant application can be reviewed with the council. Angela proposed August 17 and 24 as potential dates and the council voted to change the date of the next meeting to August 17, 2023.</p>	Kyle to change calendar invite for next planning council meeting to August 17, 2023
Next Meeting:	August 17, 2023 2:00 – 3:30 pm	

DRAFT