

**Adult Behavioral Health Planning Council
Meeting Minutes**

Meeting Day/Date:	Thursday, May 9th, 2024 2:00 – 4:00 PM	
Location:	Teams	
Members Present:	Peter Tolisano, Laura Watson, Allyson Nadeau, Jennifer Abbatemarco, Allison Fulton, Kathy Flaherty, Pamela Mautte, Will Erdman, Ellen Econs, Jennifer Buckley, Katherine Gallo, Heidi Pettersen, Zachary Nailon, Rita Natale, Herb Boyd, Giovanna Mozzo	
Staff Present:	Kyle Barrette, Sarju Shah, Liz Feder, Elsa Ward	
AGENDA ITEM:		ACTION
Solicitation for Nominations: Angela Duhaime, Chair	Angela announced that she is stepping down as Chair of the Planning Council due to her accepting a position with DMHAS. Angela solicited nominations for chairperson and for the new role of vice chairperson. Members thanked Angela for her time and commitment as Chair person.	Members interested in serving as Chair or Vice Chair will contact Kyle Barrette to submit their information. Council will hold a vote and elect new Chair and Vice Chair at next meeting.
Block Grant updates: Kyle Barrette, DMHAS	<p>Kyle provided updates on the FFY 2025 projected budget for the Mental Health and Substance Use Block Grants.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> House and Senate have each released their proposed budgets. Each budget includes additional funding for both block grants. However, final approved budget not likely before election and we may not know final block grant funding amount until early 2025. Presidents proposed budget for the Substance Use Block Grant includes new 10% set aside for Recovery Support Services. Proposed budget for the Mental Health Block Grant includes a 5% set aside for Mental Health Prevention and Promotion but likely to be removed. <p>Kyle provided updates regarding the allocation plan for both block grants.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kyle provided an overview of how DMHAS is proposing to spend both block grants during FFY 2025. Spending is consistent with previous years. Some service categories are seeing an increase as DMHAS plans to use block grant funding to sustain certain services that were expanded with Pandemic related funds (ARPA). Allocation plan for both block grants have been prepared and submitted to OPM. Next step is to have the plans approved by the committees of cognizance within the state legislature. DMHAS Commissioner will testify at public hearing in September. 	<p>Kyle will send out presentation slides and link to DMHAS webpage where council members can review the FFY 2025 Block Grant application.</p> <p>Members wishing to provide feedback or comments on the application will submit this information to Kyle through email.</p>

	<p>Kyle provided updates on the FFY2025 combined block grant application.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This application is a “mini” application and includes updated projections for FFY 2025 expenditures. • Application should be completed by August 16th and will then be posted to the DMHAS website for review and public comment. Link to review the application will be sent out to Council member by email. Council members can comment and provide feedback on the application by emailing Kyle. 	
<p>Recovery Campaign: Elsa Ward, Director, Office of Recovery Community Affairs, DMHAS</p>	<p>Elsa provided updates on Recovery Media campaign</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Media campaign (Recovery Happens Here) is being continued for a second year and incorporates both mental health and substance use recovery. • Elsa working with vendor to record additional videos of individuals sharing their story of recovery. The campaign will also incorporate art, music and other creative products developed by individuals in recovery. Campaign attempting to reduce stigma. • Elsa is looking to broaden the campaign to include more individuals and clarified that people don’t need to self-identify as in recovery to participate • Individuals interested in taking part in the recovery campaign can reach out to Elsa by phone or email. <p>Elsa provided updates on plans for Recovery month 2024</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elsa shared plans for an event to celebrate recovery month. Current plan is to hold the event in Manchester and to collaborate with the organization Pathfinders to host the event. Event will include music, wellness activities, and speakers throughout the day. The focus will be on all forms of recovery, and all are welcome. • Elsa noted that she will be hanging artwork created by individuals in recovery at OOC in the entrance off the elevator. The artwork will rotate out every three months. People are welcome to come by to view and can purchase (if for sale by the artist) through the artist’s QR code. 	<p>Elsa will disseminate the flyer for the Recovery Media Campaign to members.</p>
<p>DMHAS updates: Dana Begin, Director, Evidence Based Practices, DMHAS-State of Connecticut</p>	<p>Dana was unable to attend. Kyle provided updates related to the statewide First-Episode Psychosis initiative in her absence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early Detection and Assessment Coordinators (EDACs) have been deployed to each DMHAS service region (5). • Consultation line has been established that treatment providers can utilize to get support in caring for an individual with first-episode psychosis. • Statewide awareness and outreach campaign (MindMap) is in full swing and includes social media campaign as well as media campaign. Look for signage on public transit and billboards. 	<p>Kyle will disseminate presentation slide to council members which includes website information, toolkit, and resources.</p>
<p>Meeting Planning: Angela Duhaime</p>	<p>Angela solicited presentation ideas and potential agenda items for the next Planning Council meeting. One member suggested a presentation on state’s new Peer Respite program (Gloria</p>	

	House). Elsa Ward requested time at the next meeting to present on the Recovery Happens Here campaign.	
Next Meeting:	November 14th, 2024, 2:00-4:00pm via Microsoft Teams	