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|  | *The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*  *Executive Office of Health and Human Services*  *Department of Mental Health*  *25 Staniford Street*  *Boston, Massachusetts 02114-2575* | |  |
| **CHARLES D. BAKER**  ***Governor***  **KARYN E. POLITO**  ***Lieutenant Governor***  **KATHLEEN E. WALSH**  ***Secretary***  **BROOKE DOYLE**  ***Commissioner*** | | **(617) 626-8000**  **www.mass.gov/dmh** | |

*Statewide Mental Health Advisory Council*

*(Via Videoconference)*

*September 21, 2023*

PRESENT: Chuck Weinstein, Jean Giagrande, Joan Cho Sik, Cynthia Piltch, Eno Mondesir, Ilya Ablavsky

ABSENT: Karran Larson, Dave Brown, Susan Martin, Vivian Nunez

STAFF: Commissioner Doyle, Stephen Cidlevich

GUESTS Alan Burt, Paul Alves, Autumn Versace, Cody Case

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**Call to Order –** 8:30a.m.

**Approval of Minutes**

May 18, 2023 minutes approved.

**Welcome, Review of Meeting Etiquette**

* Online guest policy reviewed.
* Status update given on SAC Candidates applying to the Council – still with Governor’s Office

**Commissioner’s Update – Commissioner Doyle**

* The Governor has declared a state of emergency and activated the National Guard in response to the State’s efforts to support the newly arriving migrant families.
* DMH is continuing its support in the cross-agency efforts and has made resources available. DMH had additional resources added in this year’s budget under the ED Division funding which does not take away from the existing resources which will be used to help the people in Massachusetts.
* DMH has released a procurement to bring in smaller community-based organizations to help with the crisis response.
* Commissioner Doyle appeared on a radio broadcast focusing on access to treatment and the Behavioral Health Helpline and the CBHCs.

**Legislative Update – Stephen Cidlevich**

* Legislature is back in session. They’re having public hearings to set the agenda for the coming months. The budget will be closed out by October 15th.
* There is focus on housing and providing the funding and resources. The Governor has filed supplemental budgets regarding this.
* The Governor will be putting forth a major housing bond bill. Details are still being worked out. Stephen will share the information on the bill so the Council can advocate for it.
* The last month or so the hearing dockets really concentrated on election law reforms, domestic violence, taxing of short-term rentals. The legislative rules require a recess by November 15th and that will run to the first of January.
* Assisted outreach and treatment – Still not out for a vote and there’s been no action on it. Stephen will provide update if any movement occurs.

**Interagency Health Equity Task Force (IHET) – Commissioner Doyle**

* The administration is re-launching a cross-agency effort on two (2) health indicators, maternal and child health and cardiometabolic syndrome and reducing premature mortality from cardiometabolic syndrome. As part of the effort, the administration is asking all agencies to provide updates and feedback, through existing Council memberships, to the Task Force.
* Commissioner Doyle requests the SAC consider this issue as a standing agenda item, if not, the Commissioner will provide updates in her Commissioner’s Updates at each meeting.
* The Task Force is just being launched and more details will be provided.
* Motion for a vote for SAC to become part of the greater task force and to add IHET as a standing agenda item requested. Motion seconded and approved on both.

**Problem-solving, consulting regarding the Departments areas of interest**

* No issues raised.

**Old & New Business**

* Chuck would like to have **g**uests at the November meeting to talk about their experiences with people having mental health issues who were incarcerated or court involved or in state hospitals.
* What areas of interest does the Council have – bring ideas to Chuck for future meetings. Examples of areas of interest - housing, migrants, marijuana use, etc.

**Open Discussion on current events and interests**

* Commissioner Doyle - The Commissioner is co-chair of a Geriatric Task Force with Secretary Chen of Elder Affairs. This task force has been charged with making recommendations by January on how to improve the referral pathway out of geriatric units. Interest will be to expand the referral pathway. Members include The Hospital Associations and trade groups specific to older people. The Task Force hasn’t met yet.
* Jean Giangrande – The SEA Citizen Advisory Board Meeting will have its 7th annual meeting on November 1, 2023 at 1pm. There will be great guest speakers including Deputy Commissioner Beth Lucas representing the Commissioner. It will give an open opportunity for anyone to join. The focus is on collaboration with statewide board members to be a unified force. Jean will forward invite to Lynn who will forward to the Council.
* Cynthia Pilch - There is confusion about what lines to call for help and when – Helpline versus 988.
* The 988 is a suicide prevention call center line which is part of a national network. The 988 is a person to talk to, a support line. If you’re seeking someone to talk to for emotional support during times where a person is contemplating suicide – 988 is the line to call. The suicide prevention call lines had already been in place for years. 988 was just created to make it an easy way to access the suicide lines. When you call 988, depending on the number you’re calling from, you get routed to that state. For example, there are students or people who come to MA but have out of state cell numbers or live here in Mass after moving here from another state but keep their out of state number, the call will get routed to that state.
* The BHHL is a treatment access line. There is also addiction treatment access helpline as well. The BHHL was created in recognition of response DMH received from people expressing difficulty entering the mental health system, hard, confusing and unclear. The Helpline is the “front door” to behavioral health treatment – inclusive of mental health treatment, substance abuse treatment, suicide help. The Helpline is only a Massachusetts line with Massachusetts response. The Helpline has public materials and are in over 200 language services including ASL.
* The Helpline has staff assigned across Massachusetts to go out to organizations to speak and share materials.
* <https://www.masshelpline.com/>
* There is no wrong call line. The lines work together and provide a warm handoff to each other.

**Next Meeting**

November 16, 2023 via Zoom.

**Meeting adjourned 10:00am.**