State Mental Health Planning Council Meeting Notes

(34 in attendance)

April 6, 2023

1. Introductions/Updates

Matt Griffin opened the meeting and reviewed the agenda.

1. Review First Episode Psychosis (FEP) Activities

Margaret Guyer from DMH reviewed the 19 early psychosis teams which represents 14 clinics, 4 Clinical High Risk (CHR) clinics, and the one day program. Discussed the coordinated specialty care and next expansion to the Northeast and Southeast areas of the state after expanding in the western part of the state. One goal is to continue to expand statewide. Margaret reviewed coverage areas and MAPNET, discussed the use of Block grant funds for MAPNET in their role as technical assistance providers for FEP. This includes training activities, public outreach and engagement (meet with schools, correction system, churches, PCPs, and community organizations. She reviewed work on workforce development and model fidelity, as well as multidisciplinary approach in attempts to improve engagement in services. Also discussed was the 12 to 24 month process for an idea to evolve to the implementation stage, work being done with the BH Help Line on training and training provided to CBHCs

1. Present 2022 Community Consumer Satisfaction Survey Findings

JSI, DMH’s community survey vendor, reviewed the methodology, response rates and findings from the 2022 ACCS, PACT and Family surveys. JSI indicated the scores for the composite items are what is seen nationally and mentioned that the Functioning composite score decreased from the 2021. Planning Council members were interested in the frequency of spiritual activity. The presentation will be posted on the SMHPC website.

1. Commissioner’s Update

The Commissioner recently testified at the Joint Ways and Means Committee and indicated that the budget is very favorable for DMH with some expansion in funds this year. This will allow ACCS to expand. (Technical difficulties occurred limiting the Commissioner’s update for this meeting.)

1. Committee Updates

Chip Wilder discussed the Steering Committee and his role leading it.

Employment: The committee wants to keep a connection between the Commissioner and the committee. The committee invited MRC to share its analysis on DMH recipients at their next meeting. Other work included some collaboration with the Rehab Council, which it will share more on at the October meeting.

Housing: The committee now has three co-chairs and 30-60 people attending meetings. DMH rental Subsidy Program is the main focus of the committee. It is working with MAMH to advocate for more funds, asking for $8 million. It’s also advocating for Safe Haven and peer support in housing. The committee has been meeting with peer supports to identify needs for peer supports for their work. It used Twitter to connect to people and share resources and initiatives

PAC Committee: The committee chair sits on the Children’s Behavioral health Advisory Council and seeks for the committee to look at barriers that split apart adult and children’s services. An aim is to help improve collaboration to mutually benefit both adult and children’s services.

1. Legislative Update

Steve Cidlevich indicated that the House Ways and Means Committee budget is coming out the week of April 10 and wanted the SMHPC to be aware of this. He was optimistic about the budget.

1. Other Items

David Tringali indicate the DMH is starting to prepare for the Block Grant Application and will be seeking information from the committees. Once a draft is available, the SMHPC will be given it for review and comment.