**State Mental Health Planning Council Meeting**

**Meeting Notes**

**July 15, 2021**

1. Welcome

Dayna Altman opened the meeting with introductions of the Co-Chairs

1. Presentation by the Northeast Area Young Adult Services spotlighting young adult programs in the Area

DMH Northeast Area Staff introduced the following vendors in the area that are performing specific programs.

* Enhanced Young Adult Program (EYAP)- Vinfen - Presenters: Kelli Fowle – EYAP Program Director & Wendy Mancia- Peer Leadership Coordinator, with Joel Danforth, DMH, facilitating
* JRI - Presenters: Frank Gomez- Early Psychosis Flex Team Program Director & Ian Sullivan – Peer Support Specialist

These vendors presented an overview of their programs including You Forward and TIP programs run by Vinfen. The You Forward, TIP, and EYAP serve young adults. Among these programs, services include outreach, peer mentoring, help with housing, trainings on a variety of topics including active listening, building relationships, and employment assistance. The presentation indicated that the program is full featured and serves 120 DMH young adults, with some outside this age range being served as well.

The JRI presentation focused on its early psychosis work including access to appropriate treatment, its PEACE program, referral process (in which no insurance is required), and the NAN project. Services include Outpatient, In-home Family Therapy (IHT), Therapeutic Mentoring (T.M), CSA (Lynn & Lawrence), Early Psychosis Specialty Care (DMH Flexible Support Contract), and a new Drop-in Center in Gloucester.

Both presentations are available as additional, detailed documents to the notes.

1. Commissioner’s Update

The Commissioner discussed the favorable budget and thanked the Planning Council for its work in this area. The budget includes funding for open areas such as rental assistance, jail diversion and maintenance. DMH may see an expansion of homeless services as well and is close to seeing new funding realized. The Commissioner also discussed work on inpatient beds and attracting people to the behavioral health work force. She asked for feedback on workforce promotion. Members of the Planning Council supplied the following ideas:

* Connect with colleges, college and graduate school students
* Loan forgiveness and scholarships
* Certification programs for those without lived experience
* Formalized mentor programs for peer support
* Bring into the group third party payers and discuss these ideas
* Get representatives from academic areas to discuss this
* Continuation of and expanding peer roles
* Working as interns or other position with our groups
* Pay is an issue
* Too many psychiatrists are cash only
* Public education campaign
* More drop-in centers
* Create a certificate program for young people

The Commissioner asked about young adult programs and family experiences. Planning Council members suggested family partner roles, the importance of peers and cultural backgrounds, how families can better understand HIPAA, and that recovery needs to be family informed.

1. Review of the bylaws

The bylaws were not discussed since DMH Legal is still reviewing them. This item will be discussed at the next meeting.

1. Open discussion if time allows

Various members discussed the following items:

* The use of the Planning Council website
* Ideas on future meeting topics
  + Peer Run Programs – more in-depth discussion of programs
  + Peer Support Lines
  + RLCs
  + Arts coming back
  + 988
  + 911 call scrips and diversion programs
  + Hear how people are adding the needs and amplifying the voices of folks with multiple cultures and intersectionality