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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)*

*March 21, 2024*

PRESENT: Chuck Weinstein, Jean Giagrande, Joan Cho Sik, Eno Mondesir, Dave Brown, Catherine Vuky, Heather Henderson, Vivian Nunez, Susan Martin, Cynthia Piltch

ABSENT: Karran Larson, Ilya Ablavsky, Autumn Versace

STAFF: Commissioner Doyle, Crystal Collier

GUESTS: Alan Burt, Tom Coppinger, Fernando Landor

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**Call to Order –** 8:30a.m.

**Welcome by Chair**

* + Welcome Guests; Review of On-line Etiquette, Guest Policy, Open meeting policy,
  + Approval of the Minutes
* **Approval of Minutes**
  + January 18, 2024 minutes approved.

**New Member Status**

* Heather Henderson, Catherine Vuky have officially been sworn into the Council. Autumn Versace will be sworn in on Monday.
* Catherine Vuky has been a Psychologist at South Cove CMHC for 24 years.  In addition, Catherine is a professor at William James College where she created the first graduate program in the country which focuses on Asian mental health.  Her passion is looking at systems and organizations to help bring in more clinicians to the mental health field that want to work with the Asian American community.
* Heather Henderson is a LICSW working in a developmental behavioral health practice on the South Shore. She works with children who experience domestic violence to help them develop healthy relationships.
* The Council members give brief introductions of themselves to the new members.

**Commissioner’s Update – Commissioner Doyle**

* Stephen Cidlevich has announced he will be retiring. We wish him well. DMH will be recruiting for a new director and a posting will go out soon.
* A new office has been created via EHS, Office of Behavioral Health, Promotion and Prevention which was made possible by the Addressing Barriers to Care Act. The new Assistant Commissioner position has responsibilities to report to the Secretary of EHS. EHS made the decision to nestle the office at DMH. This represents a critical shift for DMH to move into the prevention space. This is a new direction for DMH to move into. The Assistant Commissioner will join a future Council meeting.
* DMH gave budget testimony at the House, Ways & Means recently which went well. There was much interest from the legislators. The BHHL line was discussed. During the testimony, Representative Xhiaros from the Cape posted the Helpline info on his Instagram. He also texted the Helpline to have a live experience so he could talk about it with his constituents. He received a response within 2 minutes. He commented on this during his public remarks, which were on the record. It was unscripted and we couldn’t have asked for better publicity. DMH spoke to the budget, community services expansion and the importance of expanding, the importance of the arrest diversion programs, workforce investment and loan repayment which is making a tremendous difference and talked about how well the IRTP is going. DMH explained that a new effort has been started to support people with SMI in nursing facilities and who want to return to community.

**Interagency Health Equity Team (IHET) – Commissioner Doyle, Crystal Collier, Chief of Staff**

* The focus has been on perinatal health. DMH hasn’t had a lot of participation there.
* DMH will be joining the discussions on social and structural drivers of cardiometabolic health.
* There have been no actions yet on the subject of housing and the impacts that people experience within the DMH system. Still a lot of information gathering.

**Legislative Update**

* N/A

**Massachusetts Clubhouses – Tom Coppinger**

* Tom Coppinger is the Executive Director of the Clubhouse Coalition.
* The Massachusetts Clubhouse Coalition is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping people with long-term mental illness find and secure employment, housing, education, services and support in the community. Membership includes over 15,000 Massachusetts residents who have mental illness and the 20+ quality accredited recovery and rehabilitation centers called clubhouses that help to sustain them.
* Fernando Landor has been a clubhouse member for the past 8 years at the Point After Club. In the beginning, he didn’t understand how the Club worked. He began to realize he had opportunities to work and opportunities to express himself. He recently lost his son, and the Club gave him moral support. Fernando appreciates Tom and the opportunities he provides for him. Recently, Fernando spoke at the State House and shared his experiences, how the clubhouse is a great place, and how his life has turned around due to the clubhouse and their help. His family and grandkids look up to him now. He has changed because of Point After Club.
* In the 1950s, John Beard, of Michigan, created the clubhouse model which focuses on partnerships that are now an international model.
* Membership is voluntary and the Club is run together with staff and members. Members choose whether to work or not at the clubhouse. Their major focus is getting people out and into the community. They accept people for where they are in their lives and give them an opportunity to get involved.
* This model helps people with routines, getting out of isolation. Members have equal say in all members of the clubhouse.
* The Point After Club was founded in 1980 as a social by Tom’s mom. He has seen it grow from the social club to the clubhouse model it is today. Equality matters to the clubhouse members. There are no staff only meetings. They have member only meetings.
* The clubhouse is a place to access various resources. There are 36 clubhouses in Massachusetts. Clubhouses support clubhouses – they learn from each other.
* Clubhouses help train employers so they can employee members. They guarantee coverage if a member is out and unable to work their shift. They also work with benefits specialists so members don’t lose benefits in the process of working. Health and wellness are a priority.
* Housing is the biggest challenge they have, especially with the rent increases. They are working with SMHPC to help find resources for housing.
* Fernando has learned that if you want something, they will help you, but you must help yourself and do your part by reaching out and asking for help.
* It’s a safe and forgiving community and members appreciate that safe space.
* Low rate of pay is an issue for retaining staff.
* For those who English is not their first language, language barriers are a challenge. They are looking into possibly exploring grants to help with accessibility with language barriers.
* The Council thanks Tom and Fernando for joining and invite both to join the council meetings at any time.

**Old & New Business**

* NAMI Walk is May 18
* CPS Award Celebration June 27

**Next Meeting**

May 16, 2024 via Zoom.

**Future 2024 Meetings: Thursday’s 8:30-10:00am (virtual)**

September 19, November 21

**Meeting adjourned 10:00am.**