**Minutes**

Mental Health Planning Council

Housing Committee

February 24, 2016

**Present**

* Marc (Moses) Mallard (NAMI)
* Adrianne Cassidy (Advocates)
* Jon Bowen-Leopold (Speaking of Hope.org)
* Jeff Chasse (Vinfen)
* Sue White (Vinfen)
* Kim Clougherty (DMH-CO)
* Joel Danforth (DMH-CO)
* Virginia Griffin (DMH-MB)
* Joe Finn (MHSA)
* Danna Mauch (MAMH)
* Janet Marsden (DMH-MB)
* Dennis McCrory, MD (MRC)
* Ruth Rose-Jacobs (Boston University) (Via Telephone)
* Megan Wiechnik (NAMI) (Via Telephone)
* David Eng (MassHousing) (Via Telephone)
* Joe Vallely (DMH-CO)

**Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The meeting was chaired by Adrianne Cassidy and called to order at 10:08.

Minutes from the December 2 meeting were presented and upon a motion were approved.

**Election of Co-Chair**

Adrianne spoke about the need for an additional Co-Chair since Constantine Souris, who has served as Co-Chair, is now recovering from cancer surgery and has stepped off the Committee for now. She made a motion to elect Joe Finn as a new Co-Chair. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously. Congratulations to Joe, he now joins Adrianne and Moses in leading the Committee.

**Report from DMH**

DMH-RSP -- On the matter of DMH-RSP, Joe V. reported that DHCD had come through with a waiver eliminating the requirement of both the Board of Health inspection and the Local Housing Authority Inspection (handouts). He asked Kim, Dir. of Community Services to speak to the changes, who noted that she had announced in a communication to the CEOs of DMH service providers along with DMH Area staff on 2-23 that this change was effective immediately. She further noted that DHCD has informed its Local Housing Authorities who administer the program for them.

Kim spoke to the new DMH Licensing inspection tool which will be in triplicate. Moses asked that a box be added to indicate handicap accessibility; the group on a motion voted this change. It is expected that with this change a full DMH inspection report will be completed and available within 24 hrs. after the inspection is completed.

Kim acknowledged the cooperation and support for the waiver that was provided by DHCD. DMH is developing guidelines along with timelines that will help all parties to understand the lease-up process.

She also mentioned a joint DHCD / DMH Webinar scheduled for March 2 at 2:00PM for LHAs and DMH Service Providers. Information will be forthcoming very soon. There will inevitably be issues to work out and she looks forward to resolving them with providers input and assistance.

DMH Housing Plan -- Kim spoke about the Commissioner’s directive to put in place a housing plan working with the MHPC and focused on the need to create movement in the residential system out of Group Living where more than half of the current clients have lived continuously since 2009. She and Joe will look to enjoin the Committee to lend input and guidance in the development of the plan.

The Committee expressed their support for a housing plan. Danna suggested the plan take into consideration functional level of clients. Joe F spoke of the need to collect data specific to both functional level and over-all housing need. Moses talked about incorporating a “tiered” approach so that individuals are placed in settings where they will succeed. Sue suggested that the plan take into consideration the need for production not just rental assistance. Danna added that the plan needs to acknowledge that gaining housing may not be a “straight line” or progression but, rather offer options to choose from. Ruth mentioned that there is a lot of Medicaid data that could be helpful to the effort.

**DMH Budget Review**

Danna gave a brief overview of the DMH FY2017 budget which includes $13M to annualize 45 treatment beds at Taunton St. Hospital for women civilly committed; $1M to increase adult community-based services in the SE Area; $1M increase to annualize four low-threshold housing and support homeless programs serving 33 individuals (MB- 2 programs, CM- 1, WM – 1).

She is drafting a letter to Rep. Dempsey H W&Ms seeking an increase to the DMH-RSP line item at DHCD and asked the Committee how much the “ask” to the Legislature should be; all agreed that $1M seemed appropriate. (Last year the “ask” was $1M; Leg. approved $500K)

**Update from Mass Housing and Shelter Alliance (MHSA)**

Joe F announced that MHSA is to receive $1.7M in an effort to address inappropriate discharges from private hospitals to homelessness. There will be more details on this in the near future.

**New Business**

Joel, (CBHI/DMH) shared with the Committee a draft proposal for a CBFS Young Adult Housing Model that he and Jonathan and others from the YA Housing Sub-Committee have been working on. He asked for feedback by March 11.

A meeting of the Co-Chairs along with Kim and Joe is scheduled for Wednesday, March 16 @2:30 to scope out the outline of the planning process.

**Next Meeting**

TBD

**Adjournment**

The Meeting adjourned at 11:32AM