**Minutes**

**Mental Health Planning Council**

**Housing Committee**

**July 13, 2016**

**Present**

* Janet Marsden, DMH/HOT
* Chris Zabik , DMH-WM (via Telephone)
* Sid Gelb, NAMI
* Heidi Holland, DMH-CO
* David Eng, MassHousing
* Joe Finn, MHSA (co-chair)
* Dennis McCrory, MD, MRC
* Kim Clougherty, DMH-CO
* Marc Mallard, NAMI (co-chair)
* Adrianne Cassidy, Advocates (co-chair)
* Jonathan Bowen-Leopold, DMH-CO
* Joel Danforth, DMH-CO
* Katherine Duffey, DMH-CO
* Jeff Chasse, Vinfen
* Virginia Griffin, DMH-MB
* Joe Vallely, DMH-CO

**Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The meeting was co-chaired by Adrianne Cassidy, Joe Finn and Marc Mallard and called to order at 10:10AM. The minutes from the May 25 meeting were presented and approved upon a motion by Sid Gelb.

**Pay for Success Housing**

Due to a scheduling conflict this presentation by Tom Brigham from MHSA was tabled and rescheduled for the next meeting.

**CBFS Young Adult Supportive Housing Continuum**

Joel and Heidi spoke to their plan that they presented to the Deputy Commissioner Brooke Doyle who indicated her support. They outlined three housing models for young adults along with a model for Access Centers.

The three supportive housing models are 24-hr staffed residences with high intensity supports; staffed supported apartments with moderate intensity supports; and apartments in the community with low intensity supports.

Young adults can enter into any one of the three housing programs and move through at their own pace. The models support growth at each level toward more independence and also serve in instances when more support is needed.

The Access Center is a key component of recovery and will be located in communities where young adults reside to provide them with a needed place for socialization, access to information and other resources. These sites are to be integrated into the surrounding community such that they don’t call attention to themselves.

Kim pointed out that she is involved with the writing of the RLCs RFR and this concept of Access Centers could be referenced in that document.

Marc “Moses” noted that RLCs are for 18+ yrs of age and should consider younger age groups. He also noted the importance of Peer Specialists in the work with youth.

Heidi mentioned that they will be working closely with young adults to get their feedback and build-in social events.

**DMH Housing Plan**

Kim updated the group on the DMH housing plan that the Commissioner has called for. She talked about the need for a predictable flow of housing resources that the field and providers can plan for. She talked about clients being “stuck” in the system e.g. GLEs , and that with more apartments in the community there would be more opportunity for clients to establish their independence and grow in their recovery.

Housing resources need to include those NAMI family members living at home but, can’t access affordable housing and those who are receiving Case Mgt. services.

In saying “we don’t know what we don’t know” Kim indicated that the planning process will continue to reach out and include stakeholders and advocates to inform and shape the plan going forward.

Moses asked how those individuals who are homeless will benefit; and it’s expected that with more permanent affordable housing and supports they will be encouraged to seek assistance.

Dennis made the point that in addition to new resources there is a need for clear outcomes and data to help guide the thinking and investment of new resources.

Kim noted DMH is working closely with DHCD and the Continuums of Care (COCs) on Coordinated Entry, DMH Safe Havens and DMH Outreach and Engagement Programs to look at data and outcomes.

Jeff highlighted the need for advocacy when it comes to affordable housing so that those with mental illness have an equal footing to existing housing and new housing resources.

Dennis suggested the Committee consider a Legislative Housing Forum similar to something he had done on employment. This will be taken up at a future meeting.

**New Business**

Joe mentioned that NAMI is interested in a housing workshop for their upcoming conference; he spoke with Megan and would be reaching out to others for input.

Adrianne thanked everyone for their participation and brought the meeting to a close as 11:35.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, September 7, 10:00-11:30, DMH Central Office.