**Older Adult Behavioral Health Collaborative Meeting Notes**

August 12, 2022

Introductions

EMHOTs BH RFP

* Betsy Connell, MCOA
	+ Going through data of semi-annual EMHOTs reports
	+ Elder Affairs got sign off to post two RFPs today for the increased funds in final GAA signed by governor
		- RPF #1- open to new EMHOTs/ expansion to new ones
		- RFP #2- for innovation in BH for older adults (intention to explore/test innovation to provide supports in homes/communities despite limited workforce capacity)
	+ **RFPs will be posted here:** <https://mcoaonline.com/grants/bid-opportunities/>
	+ Who is going to be informed of these requests for proposals? Are these entities that serve diverse populations going to be informed?
		- Need to get word out to organization that services diverse and underserved populations/communities
		- Email Betsy name of agency, contact person, etc. of any relevant agencies
			* Boston’s Age Strong Commission 🡪 did a lot of diverse organization for their grants for social engagement (Kathy Kuhn)
			* FQHCs 🡪 do work with older adults and BH (Rob Walker)
			* Greater Boston Chinese Golden Age Center🡪 Megan Cheung, MSW, LICSE, RN, Assoc, Dir. Clinical Dir. mcheung@gbcgac.org (Debbi Cutler)
		- Areas of state that are underserved (Springfield and Cape Cod areas)- interesting to see response from those areas that are not currently served
		- Great to have agencies reach out, but stigma related to MH among older adults acts as barrier to individuals seeking help (recognize that different cultures view/address MH differently)
			* Opportunities for engagement (ex. Black churches)
	+ How do we get these services to ALL older adults
* Grants provide opportunities beyond social workers (peer specialists, CBHCs, etc.)
	+ CBHCs: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/community-behavioral-health-centers>
* Older adults tend to turn to faith leaders prior to BH provider
	+ Innovation with faith leaders; coordination between both groups
	+ Bring training to group of faith leaders
* What have been the most successful programs and could they be successful in underserved areas
	+ Purpose of innovation RFP (EMHOTs models are great, but not the only successful models)
	+ Is there a piece of EMHOTs that can be implemented/innovated that can be replicated elsewhere
* Are there any senior centers in MA that have innovative programs for BH?
	+ Veronica B. Smith Center has started with to have weekly groups with new Age Strong Behavioral Health manager (Lauren Basler)
* Blue Cross RFP
	+ Interesting program to potentially bring to older adults; training for outreach workers
	+ Must have relationship with BH provider who will take any person who needs more support than the 5-sessions of the program
	+ Purpose to expand BH workforce
	+ <https://www.bluecrossmafoundation.org/grant/advancing-community-driven-mental-health>

Other topics

* OABHN looking at dates for in-person conference🡪 reach out if you know of conflicts of My 9th or 10th
* Continuing to work on white paper