

Minutes
Mental Health Planning Council
Housing Committee
Wednesday, January 18, 2017

Attendees:

- Chris Zabik , DMH-WM (via Telephone)
- Dennis McCrory, MD, MRC
- Adrienne Cassidy, Advocates (co-chair)
- Eric Shupin, CHAPA
- Jonathan Bowen-Leopold, DMH-CO
- Joel Danforth, DMH-CO
- Jeff Chasse, Vinfen
- Virginia Griffin, DMH-MB (via Telephone)
- Mary Callanan, MAMH
- Genevieve Mulligan, MAMH
- Gary Comeau, DMH-NE (via telephone)
- Brendon Goodwin, DHCD (via telephone)
- Megan Wiechnik, NAMI
- Paul McPartland, DHCD
- Carolyn Dunn, Riverside
- Sue White, Vinfen (via telephone)
- Chris Sadkowski, NE Site Advisory Brd. (via telephone)
- Mark Bilton, DMH-SE (via telephone)
- Janet Marsden, DMH-Homeless Outreach
- Ruth Jacobs, Boston University (via telephone)
- Ayana Gonzalez, DHCD (via telephone)
- Maureen Donovan, NAMI (via telephone)
- Della Newell, Wayside Youth (via telephone)
- Braden... (via telephone)
- Heidi Trainer, Advocates
- Joe Vallely, DMH-CO

Minutes of Previous Meeting

The meeting was co-chair by Adrienne Cassidy and Joe Finn. Adrienne called the meeting to order at 10:10.

The minutes from the November 16 meeting were presented and approved upon a motion by Paul McPartland, seconded by Janet Marsden.

Educating Stakeholders

The Chair of the Subcommittee Megan W. presented a one page outline and spoke about a number of “messages” that the subcommittee had discussed such as, stable housing is a cornerstone of recovery and wellness, “forget about housing readiness” and focus on housing first, re-brand housing and supports and call it “homeing”; home is not only a human right, it’s a worker’s right, and need to help people move through the housing “system” toward independence.

Megan touched on the various stakeholders they seek to reach out to including , advocates, peers, DMH clients, families, Legislators, service providers, housing developers, landlords.

She and Dennis McCrory gave an overview of some ideas on housing training offering their thoughts on who the audience might be; half day v. full day and topics for consideration. These topics could include: Rental Assistance (HCV, MRVP, DMH-RSP, AHVP), Public Housing, Finding housing & keeping housing, Fair Housing, Reasonable Accommodation.

The subcommittee is reaching out to DMH service providers to understand what training is currently offered to staff and will collect that information along with materials for planning purposes.

They indicated the subcommittee is interested in exploring a statewide housing conference that might touch on the “science” behind housing as recovery. Looking more closely at existing models that support independence, recovery and overall well-being.

Dennis spoke about the idea of hosting a housing seminar for the Legislature to help educate them and their staffs about what housing is available to people with mental illness and how integral housing is to the mental health system.

DMH Housing Plan Meeting with Commissioner Mikula

The Housing Committee co-chairs Adrienne and Joe F along with Deputy Commissioner Brooke Doyle, Kim Clougherty and Joe Vallely met with the Commissioner on Dec. 5 to talk about the DMH housing plan and the progress being made. The Commissioner underscored the importance of housing to the work of the Dept. in support of its values of community integration, recovery, health and wellness. She very much would like to see the DMH-RSP program expand by \$1M/year over the next five years and looks to the Committee for guidance and assistance.

CHAPA Regional Meetings & Legislative Agenda

Eric S. spoke about their meetings that were held around the state to get input on CHAPA’s priorities for the year and hear about local challenges as they seek to expand affordable housing. These sessions were well received and affirmed the need for strong advocacy for funding and regulatory changes.

MAMH – “People Are Waiting Report” Update

Genevieve reported that they are continuing to gather information and will begin drafting the updated report very soon. She is hoping to have it available in late March.

State Mental Health Planning Council Meeting – January 12

Adrienne reported that Joe F provided the Council with an update on the Committee’s activity which was well-received by the Commissioner and members of the Council.

New Business

Joel reported on his visit to SMOC’s TAY program in Worcester that has 40 vouchers with 18 currently leased. These include both scattered-site and clustered units; data is being gathered on the program and will be reported out in the coming year.

Next Meeting: Scheduled for April 5th @10AM at DMH Central Office.