

SMHP Council Employment Subcommittee
January 19, 2022
Minutes

In Attendance: Don Hughes; Michael Stepansky; Kathy Petkauskos; Val Comerford; Taylor Powers; Jonathan Delman; Kim Anderson; Reva Stein; Justin Brown; Steve LaMaster; Elaine Mullen; Kirstin Rotas; John Maruyama; Crystal Hickey; Graham Porell; Bill Noone; Jo Davis; Amelia Dillon

1. Welcome & Introductions

Don Hughes provided updates on the Subcommittee's work to the full Planning Council. Jon Delman also presented research related to race and employment services. Jon is invited to deliver the same presentation to the Subcommittee at a future meeting.

2. MRC Data Presentation

By invitation, Bill Noone, Graham Porell, and John Maruyama joined the subcommittee to present data related to ACCS employment services, outcomes, and demographics. All data is point-in time/aggregate from July 1, 2019 through December 31, 2021. Data included comparisons by race between Massachusetts, MRC clients, and persons served by ACCS. Among the findings:

- *A higher percentage of MRC's clients is Black/African-American than makes up the general population of Massachusetts. This may be driven principally by several specific offices (e.g. Roxbury). However, MRC tends to serve a smaller percentage of Asian clients as compared to the rest of the state. As a result of this, MRC is increasing outreach to all minority groups.*

It was also noted that seemingly higher representation of Black/African-American clients could be misleading, given that this group may be under-represented in the general community.

- *It was noted that the dual MRC-ACCS population identifies as multi-racial at a much higher rate (14%) than among MRC clients in total (3%).*
- *Asian clients reported the highest median wages and hours. However, median wages for all ACCS-MRC clients in general were lower than median wages for Non-ACCS-MRC (general VR) clients.*

Comments/questions included:

- *Could MRC provide a breakdown by race of the 450 people placed since the program began? (Yes.)*
- *Could MRC provide data by age? (Yes.)*
- *Could MRC detail the types of jobs people get, and whether the placement was made through CIES, MRC's Placement Services, an on-the-job (OTJ) training program, or something else? (Yes.)*
- *Could DMH provide the total number of people served by ACCS since 2019? (Yes.) This would help to give perspective on the total engagement rate. Approximately 2,000 people have been served since the program began in FY20.*

- *Could MRC provide data on the length of time to placement, by race? (Yes.)*
- *Could MRC provide data on what services people have received by race? (Yes, but since data is across several years, services change.)*

Subcommittee members are asked to send Michael additional questions by January 31, 2022. Michael will collect them and submit them to MRC.

It was suggested that a version of this presentation could be delivered to the joint MRC/DMH Steering Committee. DMH will make additional data available to assist with this as requested.

MRC is invited to return to the Subcommittee periodically to present updated data or new findings.

3. *Next Meeting: Wednesday February 16, 1-2pm, via Zoom. Don and Steve may be unavailable and will meet with Michael to review an agenda beforehand. Michael will chair the meeting in their absence.*

~ Adjourn ~