

State Mental Health Planning Council Meeting Notes  
(39 in attendance)

January 5, 2023

1. Introductions/Updates

Danna Mauch opened the meeting and provided updates on the Behavioral Health Help Line and the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee is conducting one more round of conversations and will have another co-chair in the near future.

2. HYPE Presentation

HYPE (Helping Youth on Path to Employment) representatives presented their program which focuses on young people developing career goals and education. They provide skill development (goal directed behavioral, skills critical to success), resource development (peers, coordination of resources), and accommodation and assistive tech (education or job, coach how and when to disclose, etc.). The program targets 18 to 30 year olds with mental health conditions who want career direction, enroll or return to school, or learn skills for success. HYPE has courses on career decisions, school prep and work prep. HYPE also has a facilitator training model that has online and professional development courses.

3. Legislative Update

Steve Cidlevich discussed the new legislature, with leaders in both chambers being mental health supporters. He provided the priorities of the new leaders which include areas such as housing, lower prescription costs, affordable childcare, and transportation that is important to those DMH serves. Nearly \$3 billion still needs allocation and a desire exists to make community colleges free. He mentioned that the new Governor appointed Mary Beckman as Acting Secretary of Health and Human Services. Steve also mentioned that the Speaker of the House wants to revisit health care cost containment. Joe Finn discussed the need for more affordable housing. The following link to public hearings was provided, with the hearings on January 31 noted as being of particular interest.

<https://www.mass.gov/service-details/executive-office-of-health-and-human-services-public-hearings>

4. Commissioner's Update

Commissioner Doyle discussed the launch of the Road Map, Help Line and CBHCs, with contract monitoring on all showing positive signs. These represent the biggest positive change in mental health in decades. She also mentioned the new Acting Secretary, Mary Beckman, and indicated that former Secretary Sudders will have an advisory role through the transition. The Commissioner discussed the addition of new treatment programs, including PACT teams for adults and youth, Safe Havens and Respite programs. The Commissioner indicated that DMH was in active procurement for additional continuing care beds for adults. She mentioned that all work is designed for situations where traditional treatment settings are not helpful and to work in relation to each other and ensure access at all levels. CBHC changes will also be a big benefit for getting care. Changes will take some time to be recognized for its advantages

## 5. Committee Updates

Older Adult Collaborative: The committee has a conference on health and Community scheduled for May 9. A webinar interview with Dr. Stephen Pinals is available on the MAMH web site. Work is ongoing regarding an older adult peer specialist and aging seminar in the spring. Here is the webinar with Dr. Stephen Pinals:

<https://www.mamh.org/education/trainings-and-webinars>

The PAC Committee: The committee will focus on building coalition with other organizations for parents in recovery and adults in recovery who are parents. Here is a YouTube link to the MGH COE video "Parenting in Recovery and Adult Child Videos: A Training Opportunity":

[https://youtu.be/xPfxz\\_MN5SY](https://youtu.be/xPfxz_MN5SY)

Employment: Equity of access to vocational services for underserved community and quality of outcomes is a focus. The committee is also working to enhance vocational outcomes from DMH and MRC and identify training needs for provider for DMH who deliver vocational supports and CIES. Its also working on data collection and analysis systems to examine vocational outcomes from DMH in partnership with MRC.

Housing: The committee is working on expanding housing through collaboration with DHCC and bringing housing authorities together to solve problem. Over 2,100 persons are using housing subsidies. It is also working with MAMH on a peers with housing seminar scheduled for January 17. Here is the registration link to the first housing conference that was mentioned - peers and housing. The date of the second housing conference is TBD and we will keep everyone posted:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMufuGrqD0pGNKQ60dXCvoUzQZAZ0cSKy30>

## 6. Topics for Future Meetings and Adjournment

David Tringali mentioned topics for upcoming meeting including:

- a. April: FEP, Centers of Excellence, Help Line at three months,
- b. July: CBHI/ early childhood mental health, DESE related programs, an Area specific early childhood program
- c. October: Employment, Employment Subcommittee in-depth report,
- d. January 2023: Dual diagnosis, BSAS

It was suggested that the Clubhouse Coalition's dual recovery program be part of the January 2023 meeting.

The following links were shared at the meeting:

- For a list and a map of the 25 CBHCs and their contact information, please visit:  
[https://massachusetts.networkofcare.org/mh/services/subcategory.aspx?cid=45096&k=Community+Behavioral+Health+Centers+\(CBHCs\)&tax=RM-6500](https://massachusetts.networkofcare.org/mh/services/subcategory.aspx?cid=45096&k=Community+Behavioral+Health+Centers+(CBHCs)&tax=RM-6500)
- Retweets of free trainings <https://www.twitter.com/wehearhope>