

State Mental Health Planning Council  
Strategic Planning Initiative  
FY2024 through FY2029

**VISION STATEMENT**

The Massachusetts Mental Health Planning Council (the Council) shall ensure respect and dignity for all persons at risk for or living with behavioral health conditions. The Council shall promote access to prevention, early intervention, holistic health engagement and activation, housing, employment, and recovery support services.

The Council promotes services that encourage individuals of all ages and their families/chosen families to develop resilience, fully recover and be productive members of their communities.

**MISSION STATEMENT**

The Massachusetts Mental Health Planning Council provides informed advice and perspective to the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health on key policy and program issues affecting individuals of all ages in the Commonwealth who are at risk for, or have, behavioral health conditions and their families/chosen families, and advocates for decision making and actions that protect and advance their health and well-being.

**Guiding Principles:**

This advice and advocacy shall be aligned with the following guiding principles:

- Mental Health is a key part of overall health;
- Integration of mental health, substance use, and primary care services produces the best outcomes and proves the most effective approach to caring for people of all ages with behavioral health conditions and multiple healthcare needs;
- Promotion of Prevention, Early Intervention, Resiliency, and Recovery as well as fair and timely access to health care, income assistance, education, employment, housing, and engagement in meaningful social roles are important for the protection of and improvement in all aspects of health;
- It is important to foster the strengths of individuals of all ages with lived experience, their families, communities, and the organizations serving them;
- Innovative evidence-based programs and best practices should be regularly examined for applicability to, and replication in, Massachusetts and promising models should be identified and pursued for implementation;
- It is important to foster an understanding of Social Determinants of Mental Health and incorporate that understanding in policy and program planning;
- Alignment of behavioral health policy across all state government agencies will promote better efficiency and effectiveness in providing individuals of all ages and their families with the health services and supports they need.