

State Mental Health Planning Council Meeting

October 10, 2024

37 Attendees

SMHPC Young Adult Chair Anna Cady Clouse and Steering Committee chair Chip Wilder were co-facilitators for this meeting.

1. Anna welcomed attendees and provided space for announcements.

- David noted that results from the community consumer satisfaction will be shared during the next SMHPC meeting in January.
- Bobbi notified the Council that a Survey Monkey survey will be sent out at the end of the meeting. This survey will request new topics for upcoming SMHPC meetings.
- **Action item:**
 - Planning Council members will complete that survey to provide input on potential topics.

2. Cassie Cramer and Lee Shuer shared presentations that discussed the MA Older Adult Behavioral Health and Hoarding Resource Networks: Advocacy, Education, Self-Help, and Community Building.

- The presentation included:
 - Information on Hoarding disorder, prevalence, and co-occurrence with other mental health challenges
 - Stigma's role in Hoarding Disorder recovery
 - Information on MA Hoarding Resource Networks (MAHRN)
 - Basic measures for how things can be better/improved.
 - Links on hoarding were also shared in the chat:
 - [The Consequences of Clutter \(senate.gov\)](https://senate.gov)
 - Uniform Inspection Checklist: [MergedFile \(centerforhoardingandcluttering.com\)](https://centerforhoardingandcluttering.com)
- Additional discussion included recent advocacy initiatives events from the Older Adult Behavioral Health Network (OABHN) in workforce development.
 - Upcoming in-person conference: May 13, 2025
 - Upcoming events and opportunities from the Older Adult Behavioral Health Collaborative
 - Links were shared on these related topics:
 - [Family Caregiver Support Program | Mass.gov](https://www.mass.gov)
 - [MassOptions](https://www.mass.gov)
 - <https://www.mass.gov/location-details/aging-services-access-points-asaps-in-massachusetts>
 - <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/aging-services-network>

- **Action Items:**

- Slide decks and links from the presentation will be uploaded to the SMHPC website.

3. The Council Received the Commissioner's Report.

Deputy Commissioner Beth Lucas provided updates on the following:

- The Steward Hospital situation: Commissioners of various state agencies, including DMH, are involved in the process of the transfer of ownership of the affected hospitals and to ensure there are plans in place during the period of crisis.
- Launching in November, MassHealth has developed a new singular tech system to intervene, track, and monitor referral and admission information in emergency departments awaiting inpatient level of care. This is for anyone who is receiving inpatient care and there is extra processes in place for those who are DMH clients.
 - This system allows emergency departments completes an assessment and care is needed and can provide referral information and care facilities if have capacity view referral information in advance and can accept online - thus a workflow of discharge and transfer will occur.
 - DMH is involved in the process and will support the EPIA team to have more information available.
- There is a new marketing for BHHL and DBHC called the "Lights on" Campaign. It is on a slow rollout with physical and digital ads with plans to be fully visible in 2025.
- Plans exist to expand capacity in community services, specifically ACCS group living and independent living environments. Next year, there will be an additional 200 beds into the ACCS service system.
- DMH is monitoring closely the state budget. There are potential signs that FY26 will be a challenging one. DMH is making sure to maintain continuity of services and adjust to meet emerging needs.

4. Behavioral Health Help Line (BHHL) Update

- Julie Shepherd discussed the two years since the launch, and that it has been very positive with continued community wraparound for the program.
- The work relied heavily on working with several agencies, and critical stakeholders to function appropriately.
- BHHL is still working on best practices towards triaging the appropriate lines amongst the BHHL, 988, and
- The BHHL has a present back channel, but more work is required to ensure that behavioral health related calls can be transferred to BHHL from 911.
- Carrie Noseworthy shared a disability indicator form that can be utilized statewide to offer pre-crisis information to 911 operators in advance of a call (it does not include Mental Health): <https://www.mass.gov/how-to/request-a-disability-indicator-form-for-landline-wireless-and-voip-consumers>

5. Subcommittee Chairs Reported on Committee Updates.

- Peer Support: Adam Whitney and Amie Sica from the newly formed Peer Support Subcommittee emphasized that this new committee is in its early stages. They shared that the first meeting occurred and are working on developing a reoccurring meeting schedule, as well as working on a clear mission and vision statement. They also expressed interest in collaboration and in joining other subcommittees' meetings to see how other subcommittees are run.
- SYAC: Chandra Norris from SYAC introduced the subcommittee. Chandra also shared that SYAC meets every fourth Tuesday each month and is open to ages 16-30.
- Housing: Katie Ryan from the Housing Subcommittee announced three newly elected co-chairs: Kate Alicante, Ben Bailey, and Katie Ryan in response to Joe Finn and Adrienne Cassidy transitioning out their chair roles. They updated that the subcommittee renewed their workgroup goals and developed action steps. If interested in joining future subcommittee meetings, please email housingsubcommittee@gmail.com

The meeting adjourned. The next SMHPC meeting will be on January 2, 2025.