

State Mental Health Planning Council Meeting

January 2, 2025

41 Attendees

SMHPC Co-Chair Danna Mauch facilitated the meeting.

1. Welcome Attendees and Announcements

- Danna welcomed attendees and shared thoughts about the changes coming in the new year.

2. Discuss Jail Diversion Programs

- Matt Brodrick from the DMH Forensic Unit provided a background on jail diversion programs, including the initial start of program in Framingham through Advocates and the initial Crisis Intervention Teams (CIT). DMH offers support to police departments for CIT including dealing with Section 12s that either come through 911 or other means. DMH tries to do proactive work as well and makes grants to university and state police in addition to local police. DMH also supports training and technical assistance programs, and funds trainers themselves. This includes providing reimbursement to police departments to send officers and staff to trainings. DMH funded 117 individual grants for the variety of programs and trainings mentioned.
- Questions arose regarding the availability of data. Grantees can request data and FOIA requests can be made. The Behavioral Health Helpline has actively engaged law enforcement in discussion on calls. Behavioral Health training has been offered to dispatchers.
- **Action Items:**
 - DMH will provide a list of current grantees if the information is available.

3. Review findings from the 2024 Community Consumer Satisfaction Survey.

- Staff from JSI, the contractor who administers the ACCS, PACT and Family consumer satisfaction surveys, presented findings from the 2024 survey. This included highlighting changes from previous years in domain scores and differences among Areas for ACCS and PACT.
- Questions arose regarding the mix of respondents compared to the DMH population. More females responded to the ACCS survey and both ACCS and PACT respondents were less likely to be Black/African American or Hispanic. Another question asked about differences in satisfaction between younger adults and other age groups.
- **Action Items:**

- DMH will post the presentation on the State Mental Health Planning Council website.

4. Receive the Commissioner's Report

- Beth Lucas provided the Commissioner's report, indicated that FY25 will be a tight budget year for the Commonwealth. DMH is following in any changes to programs and grant funding based on the change in the federal administration. Concern exists with any policy changes to Medicaid and Medicare and individuals with undocumented status that came into the state.
- The Behavioral Health Helpline is celebrating its second year of existence.
- Questions regarding the wait list for hospitals were raised, with a discussion on diversion efforts and having individual return to the community with DMH services. Expansion of ACCS and GLEs were mentioned as well as high support models.

5. Report on Committee Updates

- Danna Mauch recognized Joe Finn's dedication and efforts on housing issues as his is about to retire.
- Peer Support: The committee established monthly meetings and a vision and mission statement. Members are working on areas of focus, specific tasks, and establishing workgroups.
- SYAC: has a new co-chair who is Michael Webster.
- Housing: Workgroups within the committee have met and are prioritizing best practices for efficiency and functionality. The next meeting is in mid-January.
- Jonathan Bowen-Leopold indicated changes to the SMHPC website to improve its accessibility.
- Links shared in the chatbox:
 - [Co-Response Jail Diversion Program | Advocates](#)
 - [Jail Diversion Programs | Mass.gov](#)
 - [Request a Disability Indicator form for Landline, Wireless and VoIP Consumers | Mass.gov](#)
 - <https://tinyurl.com/MirandaPsych>: This is a survey from Wildflower Alliance for folks interested in voicing their opinion on a Miranda Rights within the psychiatry system and related instances (e.g. when being picked up by police, detained for psychiatric evaluation and potential hold)

The meeting adjourned. The next SMHPC meeting will be on April 3, 2025.