

**MEETING MINUTES FOR THE
GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2015**

Members present: Richard Leclerc (Chair), Linda Bryan, Fred Trapassi, Sandra DelSesto, Mark Fields, Joseph Le, Cherie Cruz, Sarah Dinklage, George O'Toole, Brian Sullivan

Appointed members present: none

Statutory members present: none

Ex-officio members present: Ruth Anne Dougherty (DCYF); Denise Achin (RIDE/RITAP); Colleen Poselli (DOH); Sharon Kernan (EOHHS); Michelle Brophy, Judy Fox, Brenda Amodei (BHDDH); Katie Enright (AG)

Guests: Lisa Tomasso (TPC), Michael Esposito (TPC/Anchor); Diane Dufresne (PPC), , Sam Marullo (Governor's Policy Office); Shannon Spurlock (JSI)

Staff: Jim Dealy

Review of minutes (Rich Leclerc): A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order. Minutes were approved pending the suggested revisions. Those changes have been made and added to the Amended Minutes to be forwarded to the Committee by Jim Dealy.

Healthy Transitions Committee Update (Denise Achin): The statewide Healthy Transitions advisory committee has been meeting monthly and met last week. One of our current tasks is to look at the recommendations from the Governor's Council report from 2012 on Youth Transition. Both the global recommendations and the four domains are being reviewed. The four domains were: Communication & Access, Services, Data, and Funding. Last week we reviewed at length the data needed and where it can be found within the various state agencies. Our next meetings are scheduled to be held on October 13th, November 10th, and December 8th from 3:00-4:30 PM at Barry Hall in Conference Room 126.

Block Grant Review (Rich LeClerc): A special meeting was held in the middle of August to review the Block Grant application which was due September 1st. The Block Grant

Application was submitted on time. Planning and submitting the Block Grant application always leaves us in a “Catch 22”. By the time federal BG funds are awarded, the state has already had to allocate and contract for the funds, so planning for future use of the Block Grant actually has to have been completed almost a year ahead of the Block Grant Application’s submission. We have not done that in the past, but BHDDH, DCYF and the Council will begin planning for the FY 2017 Block Grant starting this month. This is the only way to insure that changes in our Block Grant plan will be reflected in the Department’s 2017 budget and in the RFPs and contracts for FY 2017.

Staff from BHDDH’s Division of Behavioral Health meet weekly to plan for BHDDH’s BH services. Starting this month, one meeting a month will include Governor’s Council Block Grant planning team members and will focus on Block Grant planning. It is essential that the members made a commitment to attend each of the meetings – not just one or two. If any of the members of the Governor’s Council would be interested in participating in the planning portion, please let Rich know.

Block Grant Wrap up (Michelle Brophy):

The Block Grant planning meetings will be every first Thursday from 2:30-4:00 at Barry Hall 126. There will be meetings on October 1, November 5 and December 3. Our task is to make the best use of the 7.6 million dollars of Block Grant money. If there is a new service we want to fund, we really need to have an RFP to the Purchasing Division by January 1st in order to get it up and running.

The Block Grant should not be maintaining programs that we can find other funding for. Part of our planning group’s charge is to explore other ways to sustain programs that the Block Grant is currently supporting. For example, we could continue to work with Medicaid to cover peer support services, which are currently supported mostly by the Block Grant. Once other ways can be found to support these services, Block Grant funds can be freed up to meet other priorities. Another charge of the planning group is to evaluate whether Block Grant dollars are supporting the priorities we are setting. The Council, BHDDH and DCYF have set (and will continue to refine) priorities, and the task of the planning team is evaluate how well those priorities are being addressed through Block Grant funding. We should be looking to see if there is a more sustainable way to fund these programs and if not, then we use the Block Grant.

The first step will be to understand where Block Grant funds are currently going and top assess how effective they are in meeting the priorities. A matrix of the current BG

expenditures was passed out, and the Council was asked whether there are missing areas that need to be addressed.

A list of populations addressed with what we submitted this time was passed around. There are some populations that weren't specifically addressed in the Block Grant. Many of the populations that you will see are mandatory – that we submit into the Block Grant from SAMSHA. It was suggested that we need to address issues of cultural competency, and that this should include such groups as the physically handicapped and hearing impaired in addition to racial, ethnic and linguistic groups. Jim was asked to spell out the Priority Populations, rather than use acronyms.

If anyone has specific questions, please contact Jim directly and he will be happy to attempt to answer them for you.

Update from BHDDH (Linda Mahoney):

The Department of Health just received one of 60 grants given out by the Federal Government for Drug and Overdose Prevention. Only two came to New England and Rhode Island received one of them. Colleen Polselli will present on this at the next Council meeting.

Update from EOHHS (Sharon Kernan): EOHHS is continuing to flesh out the details/fine tuning the work plans for Reinventing Medicaid through monthly meetings. The Children's Stakeholder group will meet in late September. Gary MacDonald is in charge of all the Waiver changes and all of the State planning changes. The waiver request due date is October 1.

Update from DCYF (Ranny Dougherty): Planning is underway for Expedited Permanency meetings, which will reduce the time children and families wait for resolution of their custody status. This project is being supported by the Annie E Casey Foundation. Also, DCYF is developing a Structured Decision-Making process to route new cases coming to the Department. DCYF is also moving forward with decision making process for health aid services. This is building on home-based services that already exist – not just new services. Home-based services can include things such as parenting, provided in the child's home. Medicaid is working closely with DCYF to try to fund some of these services designed to promote mental health and maintain the children in their home where at all possible. A member inquired if DCYF could provide the Governor's Council with a Matrix such as that used by BHDDH so that we could better see/understand the home-based services.

Old/New Business (Rich Leclerc): The four new members nominated by the Membership Committee have been appointed by the Governor. In addition, there are new ex-officio members. There will probably be the need for two orientations for the new and/or prospective members. These will be scheduled around the November meeting.

If anyone is having focus groups with youth or young adults, the Healthy Transitions Group has a list of standard questions they would like asked. If that information could then be provided back to the Healthy Transitions Group, it would be most beneficial – The questions include areas such as: (1) what support services are you receiving now, (2) what agencies do you work with to meet your needs, (3) what services and supports do you need that you are not receiving, (4) who do you want involved in your treatment, (5) how can we deliver services that attend to your cultural needs, (6) what can be done to improve your treatment experience. The goal of the Healthy Transitions Group is to provide uniform treatment assistance as needed.

Operation Stand Down Rhode Island Weekend (Brian Sullivan) will be held on September 18, 19, and 20, at Diamond Hill State Park off of Route 114, in Cumberland, RI 02864. This organization serves Veterans and their families regarding housing, employment, medical/dental, legal services, Department of Motor Vehicles, and more. Johnson & Wales provides food. RIPTA bus service is provided from several locations. Additional details can be obtained at www.osdri.org. Headquarters for OSDRI are located in Johnston, Rhode Island if anyone has further concerns or questions. OSD is expanding its housing and other programs, and there will be a ribbon-cutting at OSD on November 9th for the new facilities.

RFP (Michelle Brophy): An RFP related to peer services will be published by the Division of Purchasing. BHDDH is not free to disclose details, but anyone interested should look at the Purchasing website (Purchasing.ri.gov) for RFPs related to peer services.

The meeting was adjourned by vote of the members.

Next Meeting: Thursday, October 8, 2015, 8:30 A.M.

Barry Hall

Conference Room 126

14 Harrington Road, Cranston, RI 02920

Statutory and Public members, please let Jim Dealy know if you cannot attend

This meeting is open to the public.

If you plan to attend and you require special accommodations to ensure equal participation, please contact Jim Dealy at the Division of Behavioral Healthcare Services at 462-0118.