

Behavioral Health Advisory Council (BHAC)

June 16, 2021 Minutes

DRAFT

MEETING DETAILS	
Date and time:	June 16, 2021 from 10am to Noon
Venue:	Virtual through Zoom due to the ongoing pandemic
COUNCIL DEMOGRAPHICS	
Present	Heather Orrock (VOCAL); Patrice Beard (Parent and Partnership for People with Disabilities); Hilary Piland (VACSB); Bruce Crusier (MHAV), Quyen Duong (DOE); Livia Jansen (DJJ); Heather Pate (Robin’s Hope); Nathanael Rudney (DBHDS); Tara Belfast-Hurd (DBHDS); Karlyn Clevert-Smith (Private Provider); Sarah Wilson (NAMI-VA); Dreamel Spady, LCSW (Private Provider); Mary McQuown (DBHDS); Katharine Hunter (DBHDS); Patricia Parham (DOC); Nick Pappas (PEER); Jenny Sappington (MHAV); Justin Wallace (Suicide Prevention at VDH); Lisa Wooten (VDH);
Guest(s)	Michael McDermott (Advocate with lived experience); Chris Miller (DARS Brain Injury Services Unit); George Worthington (DARS)
Unexcused Absences	Gail Taylor (DBHDS); Oketa Winn (DMAS);
Excused Absences	Shatada Floyd-White (Private Provider); Elizabeth Bouldin-Clopton (PEER); Ron Pritchard (VSIAS/VAAP/VA Recovery Coalition);
Minutes Taken By	Hilary Piland
Presiding Officer	Patrice Beard, President
Order Called	Council convened at 10:00 AM

Quorum was present in today’s meeting (requires 13 members, a majority [7 out 13] of these members need be consumers/peers, advocates, and family members)

	Item	Discussion/Action	Responsibility/Follow-Up (if applicable)
Welcome, Introductions, Public Comment:			
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Patrice began the meeting with an icebreaker where council members shared what they like most about summer. Public Comment was given at the end of the meeting. 	

Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting			
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nick Pappas made the motion to approve the April minutes and Heather Pate seconded that motion. The council voted to approve them. 	
Committee Reports/ Nominating Committee Report			
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bruce Crusier explained the need to form a nominating committee that will meet in June or July to develop a list of BHAC members to nominate for the 2021/22 slate of officers. The nominating committee will present that list of officers at the August BHAC meeting. The positions that will be selected are President, Vice President and Secretary. Bruce is automatically the Treasurer because MHAV is the fiscal agent for the BHAC. The nominating committee will be: Heather Orrock, Livia Jansen, Quyen Duong, Mary McQuown, and Nick Pappas. 	
Treasurer’s Report:			
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bruce Crusier shared that the BHAC has a balance of \$10,070. There were no expenditures during the last quarter and no new funds have come in. 	
Executive Committee Report:			
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Patrice Beard shared that the Executive Committee met in May. During that meeting the executive committee talked about the new membership forms that the membership committee has developed (explained below in the membership committee update) and the plan for the council’s role for the block grant submission (explained in the block grant committee update). 	
Membership Report:			
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sarah Wilson explained the new membership forms. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Council Survey – This survey is to capture the diversity of the group. This will capture the categories of race, creed, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, ability, and geographic location of the membership. The council wants to have a diverse membership and tracking these categories will allow the council to improve its diversity. A member does not have to fill out these categories. This part will be voluntary. 	<p>OUTCOME: Heather Orrock volunteered to convert the form into a fillable PDF and then Sarah Wilson will send the forms to council members to fill out and return.</p>

	<p>2. Council Commitment Form – This form is to provide clarity and can serve as a reminder to members about membership expectations & guidance on conflicts of interest.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There were no new suggestions made for the forms and no council members expressed concern about the forms. 	
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DBHDS Report:

	<p><u>Margaret Steele from DBHDS gave an update on the COVID relief funding that is coming through the MH and SA Block Grant</u></p> <p><u>That report is herme</u></p> <p>Margaret had presented to the BHAC in April about the first round of additional one time COVID funds coming from SAMHSA through the Block Grant. This is called the Supplemental Funds and is from the Consolidated Appropriations Act. Margaret had new information to share with the BHAC on the 2nd round of COVID funds coming from SAMHSA through the Block Grant. This 2nd round is part of the ARPA Funds. This is separate from the ARPA funding coming to Virginia from the federal govt. that the GA is holding a special session for in August.</p> <p>Margaret shared that she is trying to get a set aside of some of these ARPA funds coming through the block grant to be specifically for CSBs and other community providers so DBHDS can do an RFP process for those funds. This would be a set aside of funds for both the MH Block Grant and the SA Block Grant. She noted that this will be an opportunity for community providers who have not been able to receive block grant funds in the past to have an opportunity to access them. She encouraged BHAC members to share ideas for where there are “Gaps in Services” in the system.</p> <p>Expenses Allowed and Not Allowed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The expenses NOT allowed will be similar to what is NOT allowed for the regular MH block grant funds. Vehicles, building expenses, cell phone are some of the items that are not allowed. • Areas that can possibly be allowed: standing up mobile crisis for adults; additional services for priority populations like women and children; coverage for individuals uninsured to have access to MAT; infrastructure needs related to antiquated existing networks; improving workforce needs related to impacts of COVID. 	
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Block Grant Report:		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nathanael shared that the Block Grant committee met in May to talk about the block grant submission that is due to SAMHSA Sept. 1st. • The draft of the block grant application must be completed by August 1st because there needs to be 30 days for public comment. • Nathanael is working on getting the application completed. He will send the whole application to the council members and highlight certain sections that are most pertinent to the committees. • The block grant committee needs to have the council provide input on the block grant application in the form of a letter that will be included with the Bock Grant application. The letter does not need to have specifics that speak to what is in the actual block grant application. The letter should have suggestions to DBHDS in terms of the use of block grant funds for MH services and the letter would be the place to call out any gaps or disparities in services. • The committees should discuss the block grant during their July committee meetings and come to the August council meeting with areas in mind to be listed in the letter.
Committee Reports:		
		<p>Children and Youth Committee Update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Katharine Hunter shared that the Children and Youth Committee is continuing its work on getting an idea of the MH services available in schools. The committee had an interview with three different CSBs to find out more about the services those CSBs provide in schools. <p>Adult and Elder Committee Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tara Belfast-Hurd shared that the committee is still working on its initiative of looking at the MH services provided at colleges and universities. She did not have a recent update to give because Shatada Floyd-White was not present at this meeting. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Explanation of this initiative from February 2021 meeting:</i> <i>The committee has gathered contact information for counsellors and mental health clinician offices at colleges and universities. The committee plans to send a letter to 1 public college/university and 1 private college/university from each of the 5 DBHDS regions across Virginia to start a conversation with college administrators on the MH services these colleges provide and the accessibility of</i>

		<p><i>those mental health services. The committee wants to make sure college students are aware of the services. All public institutions are supposed to have some type of policy in place for mental health services for students. Also, each public institution is supposed to have mental health and clinical information listed on its website for the students to access. What is not known is what agency or organization is responsible for policing the public universities and what are the universities' tracking systems as far as how students are engaging in those services. As well, the committee would like to find out if there is data on when students are being referred to services off campus. The committee knows that more and more college students could very well need services. Students are having an alternative experience because of COVID-19 because they are not having the college experience they had looked forward to. The committee has looked at Community Colleges but has not found as much on MH services on the Community College sites. The committee plans to section out this project by region. This way the committee can provide local resources to universities and colleges that need them. The other letter is to inquire more about elder services. The committee plans to send the letter to the Office of Aging Services which is a state organization that is part of DARS. Isolation for the elderly was a large problem before the pandemic and has increased with the pandemic.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Adult and Elder Committee is also looking into the MH services provided in jails and prisons. Patrice Parham from the DOC is gathering data from 2 jails per region. This effort is get a sample of what MH services are provided. 	
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New Business:

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Public Comment:

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deweaponize current legislative barriers to Certified Recovery Housing operators • Increased Lived-Experience Representation on Opioid Abatement & Marijuana advisory boards • Specified funding percentages to NGO Evidence-Based Lived-Experience SUD Recovery Services Providers from Opioid • Abatement funds & Marijuana Tax revenues • Put “Teeth” into Delegate Delaney’s “Danny’s Law” bill HB2300 from last session. <p><i>*Please refer to the linked document above for a comprehensive explanation of the reasons and data for these recommendations.</i></p> <p>Michael McDermott requested that the BHAC improve on its transparency. He feels that the BHAC meeting details should be easier to find on the DBHDS website. As well, Michael asked if the BHAC meetings can be more widely shared so that the general public is more likely to learn about the BHAC meetings. He asked if DBHDS can share the BHAC meeting details on the DBHDS Recovery Blast email distribution list.</p>	
		Notes taken by Hilary Piland
	Meeting was adjourned at: 11:55 AM	
<p>Next Meeting(s): August 18, 2021</p> <p>Location of meeting: via Zoom</p>		

MINUTES APPROVED BY COUNCIL ON _____