



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COUNCIL MEETING Minutes

January 27, 2017 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Meeting Participants:

The in-person participants: Senora Simpson, Effie Smith, Mark LeVota, Donna Anthony, Nicole Denny, Leslie-Ann Bynum, Jocelyn Route, Tanya Royster, MD, Director, James Wotring, Senior Deputy Director, Faiza Majeed, Juanita Reaves, and Cheryl Doby-Copeland.

Dial-in participants included: Colin Anthony and Trina Dutta

Call to Order, Chair Department of Behavioral Health (DBH) Behavioral Health Council (BHC)

The BHC was called to order by the Chair, Senora Simpson at 10: 05 am. A quorum was ascertained by roll call. The Chair appointed Cheryl Copeland as the recording Secretary in the absence of the Council Secretary.

Agenda

The agenda was adopted via acclamation.

Minutes

The minutes of November 1, 2016 were adopted as presented and will be available on the DBH website as required.

Director's State of DBH and Charge to the Council- Dr. Royster

Dr. Royster provided the Council with her vision for the Department and her expectation for the BHC to move toward identifying gaps in services by using a data driven approach.

Dr. Royster indicated her desire to have a legacy that provided a streamlined access to services by:

- Identification of data to support an initiative involving peer operated services/Peer Operated Center, which Ms. Effie Smith stressed that one has been active for 14 years. Peer services are suggested as a mechanism to help obtain/maintain recovery.



- The need to always seek quality services.
- The need for "meaningful outcomes" at the provider and individual level.
- Collect data about the impact of the services we are providing as a means to connect to improved quality of life.

Ms. Simpson inquired about the Director's expectation and role of the BHC, particularly regarding its role in the administration of the Block Grant because the process of reviewing, selecting and monitoring the current grant recipients was changed by this administration, the role of the BHC Block Grant Standing Committee and the BHC's mandatory responsibility to prepare an annual report to SAMSHA regarding the disbursement of the grants, and evaluation of program outcomes was altered and the need to continue its function is unclear.

Dr. Royster informed the Council that the Office of Planning and Performance Management under Dr. Juanita Reaves, is managing the data, and Fiscal Services monitors the grants and will share the report with the BHC. Fiscal Services sends out contracts, policies, and they will monitor the grants in conjunction with the BHC.

Dr. Royster indicated the realignment of DBH is awaiting approval and would eventually collapse functions to make the Department more efficient.

Discussion of the fears/anxieties within the public based on the recent Executive Orders by the President.

Dr. Royster indicated that she is an "eternal optimist", and that the Department has a real opportunity and that people are talking more about their feelings. She suggested that the BHC could:

- Assist the DBH Access Helpline to let the public know of mental health services.
- Alert the public of the existence of the new Office of Legislative and Public Affairs which will assist the public in understanding DBH and how to access services.

Action Item 1: Invite Phyllis Jones to speak to the BHC about the vision and strategies of her office.

Action Item 2: Invite the Director to return after the approval of a new Departmental Realignment.

Deputy Director Report- Dr. Wotring

The plan for a brief strategic planning session was eliminated by consensus and a Clarification of Meaningful Outcomes Discussion ensued.

The consensus of the body included the following:

The need to:

- Collect data/evidence that people are thriving- Macro outcomes (individuals staying in school, adequate housing, employment opportunities).
- Develop client level outcomes by partnering with other agencies.



- Collect data individually and be able to make the case for clinical improvements individually versus District-wide.
- Clarify how to measure good outcomes for adults that are dually diagnosed.
- Develop an Ad Hoc Sub-committee to review various data that are collected by the agencies represented by the BHC (the Chief Information Officer is currently collecting data).
- Review the current service delivery system for the Department and the community service providers.

Action Item 3: BHC attendees should bring service data they are currently collecting to the next council meeting.

Action Item 4: Invite Brady Birdsong (Chief Information Officer), Laura Heaven (Research and Clinical Information Manager, and Donna Anthony (Office of the State Superintendent of Education) to discuss service data to the next BHC meeting.

Planning and Performance Management Officer Dr. Reaves

An update on the status of the State Plan was provided. It was also noted that the Council would be informed about its involvement in plan development in a timely manner.

Standing Committee Reports:

- **Block Grant - Effie Smith**

The Committee suspended activity given the lack of clarification on what was required. The Block Grant Committee will work closely with Juanita Reaves, Ph.D. and Mr. Wotring and will provide reports on the current status of the grants.

- **Advocacy Committee - Cheryl Doby-Copeland**

The Committee will be informed of the next steps based on the results of the data detailing existing programs and gaps in services.

- **Program Data Committee - Agnes Venson**

The Committee will be informed after the results of the upcoming data discussion.

Unfinished Business:

There were no reports of any members having participated in the Wrong Door Initiative Activity or the Request for SAMHSA TA offerings.

New Business

- Appointment of an Ad Hoc Committee for the Development of the Council to review the functioning of the BHC by conducting a self-examination of the BHC. Members will include Donny Anthony, Mark LeVota, and Senora Simpson.

Government of the District of Columbia
Department of Behavioral Health



- Nominating Committee to be formed to identify new members for the BHC, Nicole Denny was appointed as the Nominating Committee Chair.

Announcements

- No Wrong Door Initiative meeting- 2/7/2017, BHC members were encouraged to attend.
- SAMSHA Technical Assistance can be identified and submitted to the Project Officer.
- 2017 is the year for the full Block Grant Application. SAMSHA is creating a new application. BHC will need to be involved. Full application is due 9/1/2017. The DBH will need to identify the process. DBH/BHC should get the documents in July. The Council's input will need to be written and given to Dr. Royster.
- Ms. Faiza Majeed reported on a DC-NAMI and PDS DC Re-Entry Task Force along with Saint Elizabeths Hospital patient advocacy group wrote to the Deputy Mayor on the failure of DBH to pay for locally funded mental health services. Clients are not receiving mental health services because they do not have Medicaid. CSAs do not come into jails to help transition clients back into the community. DBH was asked to respond but has not as yet. This has implications for clients' choice. Dr. Royster indicated a letter was sent to the DC City Council. Mr. Wotring stated the letter went to the Deputy Mayor.

There were no members of the public present either in person or online; therefore, no one requested to speak.

Meeting adjourned at 11:36 am.

Next scheduled BHC meeting is March 24, 2017 at 10 am.

Cheryl Copeland Recorder