

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
DEPARTMENT OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
March 25, 2016 10:00 am-12:00 noon

**This meeting was informational ONLY because a quorum was not met.**

This was a regularly scheduled meeting of the Department of Behavioral Health Behavioral Health Council (DBH BHC). It was called to order by the Chair, Senora Simpson, at approximately 10:10 a.m. and ended at 12:04 p.m.

**A. Meeting Participants**

The in-person participants included: Yuliana Del Arroyo, Cheryl Doby-Copeland, Lourdine Jean-Francois (for Sara Tribe Clark), Mimi Gardner, Hammere Gebreyes (for Adrienne Todman), John Kirika (for Andrew Reese), Samantha Knox, Evan Langholt, Evelyn Sands, Senora Simpson, and Effie Smith.

There were no **dial-in participants**.

**Excused Absences-** Marie Morilus-Black, Sara Tribe Clark, Jennifer Lav, Andrew Reese, and Agnes Venson.

The persons who did not participate in the March 25, 2016 meeting included: Doris L. Carter, Nicole R. Denny, Trina Dutta, Donna Flenory, Julie Kozminski, Tammi Lambert, Diane Lewis, Maria Newman, Timothy Robinson, Tamara Weissman, and Miya Wiseman.

**Training Invitees-** Valerie Robinson, DBH Recovery Support Services, and Patricia Thompson, DBH Ombudsman.

**B. Training**

The District of Columbia Office of Open Government, Board of Ethics and Government Accountability presented training to the DBH BHC and invitees. The trainers included:

- Darrin P. Sobin, Director of Government Ethics
- Traci L. Hughes, Director of Office of Open Government provided training on the Open Meetings Act

**C. Discussion**

- Issues pertaining to the Mental Health Block Grant (MHBG) need to be discussed very soon. DBH BHC suggested the Block Grant Committee meet to begin discussions about the process for the MHBG awards. The committee will respond to the DBH BHC on their recommendations electronically.
- The Chair addressed the DBH BHC to report there is a vacancy in the secretary position. Given the information shared in the training regarding meeting minutes, there needs to be a discussion regarding the secretary's role and updates would need to be approved in the bylaws.

**D. Next Meeting**

- The next regularly scheduled meeting of the DBH BHC is the fourth Friday in May, which is May 27, 2016. The DBH agency representative will coordinate with the Chair, Senora Simpson, to determine a new date because the 4<sup>th</sup> Friday falls on a holiday, Memorial Day, weekend. The DBH BHC proposed the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of May. An electronic vote will be held.

**District of Columbia Department of Behavioral Health**



**Department of Behavioral Health Behavioral Health Council (BHC) Data Needs Survey**

Please take a few minutes to respond to the questions below. Your answers will help form a technical assistance plan for the use of data. Pages 3-4 provides information about: 1) federal requirements for councils, and 2) council activities and committees that may be helpful in identifying data needs related to the survey items.

1. Populations Data (*Select 1 of the populations below*):

- Children and youth with serious emotional disturbances (SED)
- Families of children and youth with SED
- Transition age youth/young adults with serious mental illnesses (SMI)
- Adults with SMI
- Older adults with SMI

*a. What data questions do you have about the population you selected?*

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*b. How does this relate to the Mission of your BHC Committee? And/or The Mission of the Behavioral Health Council?*

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2. Services Data (*Select 1 of the services below*):

- Services for adolescents with substance abuse and/or mental health problems
- Services for children and youth who are at risk for mental, emotional, and behavioral disorders, including but not limited to addiction, conduct disorder, and depression
- Services for women who are pregnant and have a substance use and/or mental disorder
- Services for parents with substance use and/or mental disorders who have dependent children
- Services for military personnel (active, guard, reserve, and veteran) and their families

**a. What data questions do you have about the service you selected?**

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**b. How does this relate to the mission of your committee? And/or The Mission of the Behavioral Health Council?**

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**3. Please indicate your level of interest in using the data as described below by rating each item from 1 to 5 with 1 being very interested and 5 not interested.**

- Availability and identification of relevant/useful data sources/reports
- Data interpretation and analysis
- Evidence-based decision making
- How to present and disseminate results

**4. Other Data Related Information (Please Specify):**

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**Department of Behavioral Health Behavioral Health Council (DBH/BHC)**

**A. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Community Services Mental Health Block Grant Planning and Advisory Council Requirements:**

1. Review the Mental Health Block Grant Plan and make recommendations;
2. Serve as advocates for adults with a serious mental illness, children with a serious emotional disturbances, and other individuals with mental illnesses or emotional problems; and
3. Monitor, review, and evaluate at least once each year the allocation and adequacy of mental health services within the District.

**B. DBH/BHC Activities:**

1. Implement the SAMHSA planning and advisory council requirements referenced above.
2. Advise the DBH Director about behavioral health planning and implementation initiatives and other Departmental matters.
3. Develop and implement activities through the DBH/BHC committees, collaboration with Departmental programs, or community-based organizations.

4. Seek technical assistance through SAMHSA and/or SAMHSA contractors.

**C. DBH/BHC Committees:**

***Advocacy Committee***

1. The Advocacy Committee will provide education, information, and support to efforts related to the prevention and treatment of mental health and substance use disorders.
2. The committee will provide comment on proposed legislation, regulations and policies affecting the constituencies served by DBH and will report their efforts to the larger DBH BHC. This committee does not participate in legislative activities in the name of the DBH BHC except with specific approval obtained through the agency legislative process.

***Block Grant***

1. The Block Grant Committee will work closely with the DBH Block Grant staff to develop the biennial plan and annual reports that are submitted to SAMHSA.
2. The committee members will participate with DBH staff in planning meetings, will conduct plan reviews, and will present the plan/reports to the entire DBH BHC for comment and consideration prior to submission to SAMHSA.
3. The committee will be composed of an equal number of DBH BHC members representing both mental health (MH) and substance use disorder (SUD) interests.

***Program, Data and Policy Committee***

1. The Program, Data and Policy Committee will work with the DBH staff on programmatic and policy issues that affect the MH and SUD service system.
2. The committee will also review data and data analyses related to DBH programs or contracts for mental health rehabilitation services (MHRS) and SUD services. All activities of the committee will be reported to the full DBH BHC and recommended action by the full DBH BHC will be made to the DBH staff.

***Ad Hoc Committees***

Ad Hoc Committees may be formed by the DBH BHC Chair for a specific task or objective, and dissolved after the completion of the task or achievement of the objective.