

**Mental Health and Substance Abuse Block Grant  
Joint Planning & Advisory Council  
Meeting Minutes  
August 12, 2021**

Present: KenYada Blake-Washington, Hon. Mark Chaney, Dr. Shawn Clark, David Connell, Dr. Chelsea Crittle, Kay Daneault, Andrew Day, Ron Deloach, Paul Dobbs, Carol Elrod, Kevin Freeman, Joe T. Grist, Mary Harrington, Lavonda Hart, Ronny Henderson, Jamie Himes, Dr. Joy Hogge, Pam Holmes, Detrick Johnson, Natalie Jones, Dr. Joe Kinnan, Sandy Kinnan, Toniya Lay, Ashlee Lucas, Harriette Mastin, Paul Matens, James Moore, Curtis Oliver, Lois Childs-O'Neal, Dwight Owens, Coreaner Price, Laykin Register, Kim Richardson, Terry Session, Wanda Thomas, Degarrette Tureaud, Kay Warrington, Harold White, Nancy White, Chan Willis, Dr. Scott Willoughby, Sitaniel Wimbley, Dawn Wisdom, Melody Worsham

DMH Staff Present: Wendy Bailey, Felita Bell, Misty Bell, Marcus Crowley, Dr. Eileen Ewing, Brent Hurley, Jake Hutchins, Tressa Knutson, Dr. Mallory Malkin, Dr. LaTarsha Michael, Adam Moore, Julie Propst, Lynda Stewart, Katie Storr, Carman Weaver

**Welcome and Meeting Overview – Wendy Bailey and Jake Hutchins**

Ms. Bailey called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Mr. Hutchins welcomed everyone as well and opened the floor to Mr. Grist, A&D Advisory Council Chair.

**Mental Health Council Comments**

P&A Council Chair, Mr. Connell, thanked the council for their attendance.

**Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Connell requested that the minutes from April 8, 2021, be approved. A motion to approve was made by Ms. Worsham and a second by Ms. Kinnan. The motion passed.

**Old Business**

Ms. Worsham brought new member orientation and council bylaws to the floor. Dr. Malkin made a motion to form a subcommittee to look at the bylaws closely and develop an orientation curriculum. A second was made by Ms. Worsham. The motion passed.

Dr. Hogge, Executive Director of Families as Allies, stated that she has visited in the past but is now a new council member. Families as Allies is held accountable by their national group and the statewide family network for coordinating with the council and ensuring federal legislation requirements are met. This includes assessing the system as well as deciding allocation of the block grant money. Every state is different, however, progress can be made and opportunity for growth. Families as Allies also has a network of other family run organizations throughout the country who are participating in this process in their state. This brings a wealth of ideas and resources to our state.

Dr. Hogge stated that she would like to serve on the subcommittee to offer ideas from that perspective as well as benefiting from serving.

## **New Business**

### **Mental Health Block Grant Update**

Lynda Stewart – Mississippi Department of Mental Health  
Division of Children and Youth Services Director

A copy of the FY 2022–2023 MHBG State Plan application rough draft was emailed to council members. The guidance was not sent out for SABG or MHBG until mid-July. Ms. Stewart and Ms. Bell have been diligently working to compile data. Within the document, the italic information is to be reviewed and revised. The information left blank is on-going. Steps 1 and 2 continue to be revised. In Environmental Factors, numbers 8, 10 and 14 are missing. Those responses pertain to SABG and will be completed by them. Many of the questions in the Environmental Factors sections are requested, not required. However, Mississippi completes every section in an effort to share all activities and endeavors as well as needs. The document printed directly from SAMHSA's WebBGAS system with a "NOT FINAL" watermark. This could mean that there will be further requirements. As soon as the draft is completed, it will be sent out for public comment. The final plan is due for submission September 1, 2021, but will be submitted as soon as it is finished. DMH typically submits prior to the due date and will this year.

The form requiring the Mental Health Planning and Advisory Council member's information was also emailed to council members. Ms. Stewart asked that members review the information for accuracy. If corrections need to be made, please email Ms. Weaver at [carman.weaver@dmh.ms.gov](mailto:carman.weaver@dmh.ms.gov).

### **The BRIDGE Drop-In Center Services**

Detrick Johnson – Hinds Behavioral Health Services  
The BRIDGE Drop-In Center Team Lead

The BRIDGE Drop-In Center is located at 628 West Capitol Street in Jackson. It is an outreach program funded and connected through Region 9 CMHC. The number of homeless individuals has increased recently, and the center provides services to help homeless individuals who suffer from serious mental illness. The facility is open from 8:00 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. A screening process is provided on site and intake is done at HBHS on Hwy 80 in Jackson. Staff consists of 3 Certified Peer Support Specialists, the Team Lead (Mr. Johnson), and a Case Manager. Individuals are given assistance with obtaining benefits, accessing technology, completing applications for employment and resources. Access to showers, hygiene products, and clothing are also made available. Individuals can also use the facility to receive mail. Once they are comfortable with staff and are ready, individuals who have substance use disorders are connected to community resources for treatment. The center has facilitated success with individuals who accepted treatment as well as individuals who now have a home of their own. HBHS now offers an integrated care program that provides treatment for physical health.

## **Intensive Community Outreach Recovery Team (ICORT)**

Ron Deloach – Community Counseling Services CMHT

ICORT Team

Region 7 serves Choctaw, Clay, Lowndes, Noxubee, Oktibbeha, Webster, and Winston Counties. The team includes a therapist (Mr. Deloach), a Certified Peer Support Specialist, a registered nurse, and a community support. ICORT works as a small PACT team. ICORT was started in FY 2019–2020 and served 13 individuals. Only one of those served, who did not have a social support system, returned to a facility. However, the team worked with the facility and located an assisted living home for the individual. Last year approximately 22 individuals were served. Since the pandemic, the team experienced individuals whose struggle was amplified. During that time, 4 individuals returned to a facility. The team started their third year in July and currently have a case load of 20 individuals. The team has collected data since its inception to ensure needed services. It was noted that four elements are needed for individuals to sustain stability. These include having access to get medication, a place to stay, access to doctors, a strong support system and transportation. Without all of these in place, the stability factor begins to break down. To ensure these things are established with new cases, the team targets them first. It was also noted that these individuals were not successful with regular outpatient mental health services. Many of them have struggled within the system(s) since they were teens. The ICORT team maintains consistency with the individuals which also makes a difference in the daily lives of individuals served. Networking, resources, building strong relationships within the community and on the state level are also needed. For example, building relationships with local authorities, housing, and landlords as well as a full pantry, emergency room, and supported employment. In crisis, this enables the team to provide services and supports fast. Staff works closely with the MCERT team and acute behavioral health centers in the area. Social support systems are often caregivers, who have aided and advocated for years leaving them exhausted. The team provides support for the caregivers and helps find other family members who can help support the individual until they become stabilized. ICORT teams have been a needed program in communities and have made great progress. Mr. Deloach recognized Mr. Paul Dobbs, who is the CPSS for the ICORT team and has been there since the beginning. The services and supports offered by ICORT teams improve the mental health community in Mississippi.

## **Mental Health Budget Request**

Wendy D. Bailey – Mississippi Department of Mental Health

Executive Director

DMH has submitted the budget request and anticipates a budget request hearing in September at the legislative budget office. Prepared budget information will be sent to council members in September. DMH has received some additional COVID-19 block grant funding for A&D and mental health. There was not an increase included in the budget for any additional services through the legislature. The COVID-19 funding will be used and all will go to community-based services. The only additional item and increase in the budget request is for an office of utilization and review. This request is solely on the collection of data and reviewing the utilization of the many new expanded

services. It's all around the services to keep an individual in their home and community and out of a hospital. DMH wants to have a core group of people looking at individuals who do cycle in and out of state hospitals and who need additional support. This is to analyze the collected data to yield more solid outcomes. At the beginning of FY 2021-2022, DMH continued the move from institutions to community by shifting approximately \$5 million from state hospitals to community-based services for crisis services enhancements. With additional COVID-19 funds, DMH anticipates significant growth.

There is currently a staffing crisis in the state. This affects DMH as well as strides are being made to expand. If council members know anyone who is interested in becoming a Certified Peer Support Specialist, ask them to reach out to DMH. DMH plans to add CPSS's at each CSU and will be adding Peer Bridger programs to the remaining two hospitals and CMHCs. Anyone interested in working the mental health or substance abuse field, the CMHCs, other community providers, or DMH, please ask them to reach out as well.

### **Wrap Up/Proposed Dates and Topics for Next Meeting**

Members will be notified about the next meeting.

### **Announcements**

Felita Bell, SABG Block Grant Coordinator, stated that she is in the process of working on the rough draft for the state plan. Upon completion, she will be sending it to members electronically and requesting review and feedback. Once this stage is complete, the plan will be submitted to the secretary of state's office to be uploaded on their site for public comment. The plan is due on October 1, 2021.

The 2021 Virtual Trauma Informed Care Conference is September 22–24, 2021. Everyone is invited to participate. For more information, contact Ms. Weaver at [carman.weaver@dmh.ms.gov](mailto:carman.weaver@dmh.ms.gov) or go to [mstraumaconference.com](http://mstraumaconference.com) to register.

Families as Allies has collaborated with DMH for the past few years to provide Parent/Caregiver Support training. Currently they are working more with the aspects of coordinating the overall program. This includes coordinating with the Children's Mental Health Directors, CMHC's, and other providers. FAA would like to utilize the council as a resource for the best regulation concepts and success.

Ms. Worsham reminded members that September is Recovery Awareness Month. There are several events happening across the state. She invited members to attend Celebrate Recovery in Oxford scheduled for the end of September. It is a large community event with live music. They are looking for people to come and share information about the programs they offer. For a list of events and/or more information, visit AMPSS on Facebook or contact Ms. Worsham at [melody@msmentalhealth.org](mailto:melody@msmentalhealth.org).

The annual NAMIWalks event is being held virtually on October 9, 2021. It's *A United Day of Hope* and participants choose what they want to do on event day. You can read

books, swim laps in the pool, or exercise with your family – it's participant's choice. For more information visit [namims.org](http://namims.org), pick your affiliate, and join the walk.

### **Adjournment**

Ms. Kinnan made a motion to adjourn. It was seconded and the motion passed. Mr. Joe Grist adjourned the meeting at 11:35 a.m.