

**Mental Health and Substance Abuse Block Grant
Joint Planning & Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
November 23, 2021**

Present: Dr. Nelson Atehortua De la Pena, KenYada Blake-Washington, Hon. Mark Chaney, Dr. Shawn Clark, David Connell, Marshea Cooper, Andrew Day, Carol Elrod, Hillman Frazier, Mona Gauthier, Annette Giessner, Joe T. Grist, Lavonda Hart, Jeffrey Harvey, Dr. Joy Hogge, Toniya Lay, Kennan LeSure, Christie Lewis, Paige McCormick, Adam Moore, Dwight Owens, Jasmine Page, Julie Powell-Bridges, Coreaner Price, Jean Robertson, Terry Session, Lisa Smith, Tonya Tate, Jaquelynn Taylor, Degarrette Tureaud, Chan Willis, Dr. Scott Willoughby, Sitaniel Wimbley, Dawn Wisdom

DMH Staff Present: Felita Bell, Misty Bell, Kelly Breland, Dr. Eileen Ewing, Bill Gaddis, Brent Hurley, August Irving, Dr. Mallory Malkin, Dr. Kristin Merritte, Dr. LaTarsha Michael, Chuck Oliphant, Julie Propst, Victoria Ross, Kathy Smith, Katie Storr, Carman Weaver, Belen White, Brenda Young

Welcome and Meeting Overview

Dr. Mallory Malkin, Chief Clinical Officer, Bureau of Behavioral Health Services

Dr. Malkin called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

Dr. Malkin introduced Ms. August Irving, the State Planner for DMH. She will be working with the council and the DMH State Plan.

Dr. Malkin opened the floor to Mr. Joe Grist, A&D Advisory Council Chair.

A&D Council

A&D Council Chair, Mr. Grist, welcomed attendees and led the meeting.

COVID-19 and the Impact on Mental Health

Presented by Nelson Atehortua De la Pena, MD, PhD, MPH, Assistant Professor and Director at the Americas School of Public Health Global Health Initiative at Jackson State University.

SOR/Prevention

Presented by Julie Propst, LMFT, Statewide Opioid Coordinator, Division of Alcohol and Drug Prevention Services at the Department of Mental Health.

SABG Block Grant Update

Ms. Felita Bell gave an update on the SABG Block Grant and State Plan.

Mental Health Council Comments

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

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Connell requested that the minutes from August 12, 2021, be approved. A motion to approve was made by Dr. Atehortua De la Pena and a second by Ms. Elrod. The motion passed.

Old Business

None

New Business

FY 2022-2023 Mental Health Block Grant and Implementation Update

Dr. Mallory Malkin – Mississippi Department of Mental Health
CCO, Bureau of Behavioral Health Services

The Mental Health Implementation Plan is due December 1, 2021. We are in the process of cultivating all data and getting the expenditure finalized through the grants management team. The Mental Health Block Grant was made available for public comment. The public comments and responses were posted on the DMH website. This will be the procedure going forward to be transparent with the community. DMH appreciates and is looking forward to continuing public engagement as we provide that information for all to see. In addition, in relation to some of the feedback and comments received, we have sought out and are in the process of receiving TA (Technical Assistance) for the MH Planning Council through the Southeast MHTTC (Mental Health Technology Transfer Center) Association. They may reach out to you for focus groups. It will be separate from DMH to provide some objectivity in getting some of your feedback. This will hopefully increase engagement and the utility of the council. Ms. Irving will be heavily involved in this process as she will be the DMH liaison for the MH Planning Council.

Youth Mental Health Court

Jean Robertson – Pine Belt Mental Healthcare Resources
Children's Services Director

Pine Belt is piloting a Youth Mental Health Court program that is a product of the recent SOC (System of Care) Initiative and part of its sustainability plan. Pine Belt has had 2 SOC Initiatives across the last 15 years. The first one, Community Cares, spanned 2007-2012. The most recent one was Crossover XPand. Through these 2 programs

they have been able to solidify the trauma informed care services for children and develop an appreciation for family voice and services, which has been a large focus. Amid these initiatives, they contracted directly with the National Wraparound Implementation Center to become a leader in Wraparound services. The current Executive Director, Mona Gautier, was a previous coach. They have been able to cement the children's program with the principles of Wraparound including collaboration, community-based services, cultural competency, outcomes, individualized services, and natural supports. Most importantly, in the center of these is family voice and choice. Throughout that time between the focus on family-driven services, trauma informed care, and the grounding of those principles, they were led to the most recent success with the recent Crossover XPand Initiative. Crossover XPand focuses on crossover youth. These are youth that are involved or are at risk of being involved in the CPS system and/or the Juvenile Justice System. With the grant, master's level staff are provided at various offices to help intercept families as they are coming in and help to identify needed services as well as help to locate these services. One of the grant's legacies is the development of relationships with youth court judges. Most specifically, there was a complete turn over in youth court judges during this time. One of these was Hon. Carol Jones Russell. She is the Forrest County and Youth Court Judge. She is passionate about families and youth services and genuinely cares with an openness to learn. She is very involved in youth services across Forrest County. She advocated for a Youth Mental Health Court, which is the same vision Pine Belt had for Forrest County. Dr. Malkin learned of this shared vision and through collaboration with DMH, they were able to pilot the program. There are 2 goals for the program which is primarily increasing access to families and youth for services and decreasing the stigma around mental health services for children. There is a master's level clinician who is dedicated to the program at Forrest County Youth Court participating in meetings, attending court, and accessing families. The clinician is also able to meet the individual where they are, whether it's at school, home, or court. In the same fashion, a CPSS is provided for the court in Lamar County. In the month of October 2021, there were 8 youth referrals. This does not include consultation meetings and conversations. More data will be collected moving forward as to the ethicality of the program itself.

Mental Health Budget Request

Kelly Breland – Mississippi Department of Mental Health
Chief Financial Officer, Bureau of Administration

Mr. Breland shared and reviewed the Joint Legislative Budget Committee presentation for FY23 Budget Request presented on September 24, 2021. General funds requested were \$220,868,752, State Source Special Funds were \$19,551,886, and Other Special Source Funds were \$409,109,716. The total FY 2023 Budget Request is \$649,530,354. Mr. Breland also reviewed the Institutional Care vs. Community Services Spending, FY23 Budget to be Funded, FY23 Expected Expenditures Behavioral Health Community and Institutional, and the Decrease in Number of Employees chart. Expectations going forward are for the Joint Legislative Budget

Committee to have their recommendation by early December 2021. DMH will recalibrate our numbers based on their recommendation. Everything in the session, starting early January 2022, will be based on that recommendation.

Wrap Up/Proposed Dates and Topics for Next Meeting

No topics suggested. Members will be notified of the next meeting.

Announcements

None

Adjournment

Mr. Joe Grist adjourned the meeting at 11:40 a.m.