

Mental Health Planning Council
May 18, 2022, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm
Zoom
Meeting Minutes – Approved 7/22/2022

MENTAL HEALTH PLANNING COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mavis Anema	Megan Marsh
Teresa Bomhoff	Ed Murphy
Sen. Nate Boulton	Donna Richard-Langer
Kenneth Briggs	Brad Richardson
Rachel Cecil	Jennifer Robbins
Linda Dettmann	Kristin Roof
Jim Donoghue	Dr. Shaad Swim
Jen Gomez	Heather Thomas
Kyra Hawley	Michele Tilotta
Theresa Henderson	
Todd Lange	

MENTAL HEALTH PLANNING COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT:

Jacque Easley	Hannah Olson
Kris Graves	Katie McBurney
Vienna Hoang	
Michael Kaufman	
Anna Killpack	
Rep. Bob Kressig	
Rep. Ann Meyer	

OTHER ATTENDEES:

Theresa Armstrong	Libby Reekers
Wendy DePhillips	Flora Schmidt
Todd Noack	Peter Schumacher
Henny Ohr	Abigail Sui
Chloe Paulson	
Eric Pruess	

Materials Referenced:

January 19, 2022, IMHPC Meeting Minutes - DRAFT
March 16, 2022, IMHPC Meeting Minutes - DRAFT
Monitoring and Oversight Committee Recommendations for Block Grant Funding 2022
Your Life Iowa PowerPoint Presentation
EMBARC – Culture and Mental Health PowerPoint Presentation

Welcome and Introductions

Teresa Bomhoff called the meeting to order at 9:08 am. Teresa led introductions of IMHPC members and attendees. Quorum was established with 19 members.

Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes

Teresa Bomhoff indicated that the Planning Council had to vote on approval of both the January 19, 2022, and the March 16, 2022, meeting minutes as there was no quorum for a vote at the March meeting.

Teresa Bomhoff noted that Jim Donoghue should be listed as absent on the January 19, 2022, minutes. Teresa indicated that she would entertain a motion to approve the January 19, 2022, minutes. Michele Tilotta motioned to approve these minutes with the change indicated. Ken Briggs seconded the motion. The motion passed and the minutes were approved.

Teresa Bomhoff indicated that she would entertain a motion to approve the March 16, 2022, meeting minutes. Michele Tilotta motioned to approve the minutes. Ken Briggs seconded the motion. The motion passed and the minutes were approved.

Discussion and Vote on Returning to In Person Meeting

The Council discussed the option of returning to in-person meetings or keeping the meetings virtual via Zoom. The Council felt that remaining virtual was the best option to ensure the most participation by Council members. However, there was some discussion about the benefits of having the opportunity to meet and network with other Council members which is an advantage of meeting in person. The Council decided to have one in-person meeting a year beginning in 2023. It was determined that July would be a good month as school is out and may allow for better participation. Teresa Bomhoff indicated that she would entertain a motion for the Iowa Mental Health Planning and Advisory Council to remain 100% virtual with one in-person meeting in July. Mavis Anema motioned to approve and was seconded by Ed Murphy. The motion passed.

Committee and Workgroup Reports

Nominations Committee

There was discussion regarding Planning Council attendance and the fact that Jacquie Easley has not been able to attend Planning Council meetings as well as Monitoring and Oversight Committee meetings due work shortages. Donna Richard-Langer indicated that she had reached out to Jacquie who was going to consider and decide if she was still able to participate on the Council. Teresa Bomhoff indicated that she would send Jacquie a note that her position will be considered vacant, and she was free to reapply.

It was noted that with Jacquie off the Planning Council there was a vacancy on the Monitoring and Oversight (M/O) Committee. Donna Richard-Langer gave a brief overview of the purpose of the M/O Committee. Teresa Bomhoff noted what Planning Council members had not volunteered for a committee or workgroup. Kyra Hawley expressed interest in learning more about the committee. Donna Richard-Langer said she would send Kyra more information.

Teresa Bomhoff noted that there were currently eight vacancies on the Iowa Mental Health Planning and Advisory Council, two individuals with lived experience, three parent or guardian of a child with SED, and three openings for individuals in the "other" category. There was discussion regarding a potential candidate for one of the openings for an individual with lived experience. Committee is currently waiting on paperwork so their recommendation can be brought to the full Planning Council.

Monitoring and Oversight

Donna Richard-Langer provided a brief overview of the duties of the Monitoring and Oversight Committee noting that the committee formulates funding recommendations that utilize Mental Health Block Grant (MHBG) funds. These recommendations are then brought to the full Planning Council for discussion and vote and once final are given to the Department of Human Services for consideration in their plan for MHBG funds. Donna noted that many of the past requests from the Planning Council have been addressed with contracts and services.

Donna reviewed the recommendations developed for 2022-2023 block grant funding. These recommendations include addressing workforce issues, services for the aging population, and having the Systems of Care contractor use the same functional assessment tool.

There was discussion regarding retaining workers in Iowa versus moving out of state. There was discussion regarding LGBTQ+ kids and the need for services and supports. There was discussion about adding fellowships, mentorships, and scholarships to the recommendations. There was discussion regarding training individuals who want to work specifically with LGBTQ+ kids in schools. There was discussion regarding adding apprenticeships and paraeducators to the first recommendation. There was discussion regarding mental health burnout in direct care staff.

Donna Richard-Langer motioned to approve the recommendations with additions discussed. Todd Lange seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Theresa Henderson discussed the new contracts with the four peer-run organizations noting that these are all first-time contracts and that the contracts end July 2025 when the grant indicates dollars need to be spent. Theresa reviewed the basic work of each contract.

There was discussion regarding the aging population and the lack of services available in rural areas and the difficulties in obtaining in-home hospice care in these communities. It was noted that geriatric psychiatric care is only available in Storm Lake, Iowa, and that there are no other providers in the State.

There was discussion regarding having the newly awarded contractors for the peer-run organizations present on the services they offer, how they differ from other providers, and their strengths at the July Planning Council meeting. It was mentioned that the Planning Council may also want to invite Cody Crawford to offer information about the Peer Recovery Centers.

Your Life Iowa Presentation

Eric Preuss, Iowa Department of Public Health, introduced himself and gave an overview and update presentation on Your Life Iowa (YLI), which is a single go-to resource for gambling, substance abuse, mental health, suicidal ideation, and more. Eric noted that IDPH and YLI have launched a recent media campaign (tv spots, YouTube, TikTok, etc.) for youth suicide prevention. Eric indicated that active YLI media campaigns can be found on the YLI Media Center at: <https://yourlifeiowa.org/prevention/media-center>.

There was discussion regarding 988 and 911 and the difference between the two services as well as YLI connection with 988 and the upcoming transition. It was noted that the desire was to make sure individuals can access care so YLI will continue to function after the transition of the National Suicide Lifeline to 988 to help with capacity and that calls from Iowans are answered in Iowa. There was discussion regarding warm transfer and mobile response dispatch.

Mental Health Needs and the Refugee Community

Abigail Sui, Family Focus Program Director, and Henny Ohr, Executive Director, EMBARC, introduced themselves and provided an overview presentation of EMBARC and specifically the needs, including mental health needs, of the Burmese refugee population. The presenters shared specific clients' stories that illustrate the complexity of providing support for the refugee population and the need for additional assistance both monetary and through systemic changes, as well as a peer-based program that has been implemented to help mother's discuss topics of concern and help each other with the assistance of a group facilitator/navigator.

There was discussion regarding EMBARC's needs for funding, advocacy, system changes, education, expertise, and training. There was discussion regarding adding something to the block grant recommendations. There was discussion regarding providing training for CMHCs in certain communities so that they can better assist the refugee populations in their area. There was discussion regarding EMBARC's partnerships with Lutheran Services of Iowa and Refugee Services. There was discussion regarding EMBARC's need for more mental health peer to peer navigators.

Iowa Mental Health Planning and Advisory Council took a break at 12:04 p.m. and reconvened for the joint meeting with the Mental Health and Disability Services (MHDS) Commission at 12:30 p.m.