



Behavioral Health Commission on Adult Mental Health

Meeting Name:	Behavioral Health Commission on Adult Mental Health Meeting 1
Date:	August 18, 2022
Start Time:	3:30 PM
End Time:	6:30 PM
Location:	H&W Building Room 327 / Microsoft Teams Meeting

Attendees

Kathy Quick, Lisa Kennedy, Jason Riligio, The Reverend Michelle Anne Simmons, Tina Clymer, Dr. Matthew Hurford, Dr. Faith Dyson-Washington, Dr. Maria A. Oquendo, Chief Edward M. Cunningham, Dr. Jeanne M. Slattery, Dr. Stephanie Diez-Morel, Hasshan Batts, Dr. Kenneth Thompson, Dale Klatzker, Jillian London, Dr. Dale Adair, Mike Humphreys, Jennifer Smith, Muneeza Iqbal, William Ward, Dr. Noreen Fredrick, Pat Caimano, Rep. Michael Schlossberg

Minutes

Meeting Objectives

- Introduce Commission members, set expectations, review survey results, and vote on where county meetings should be held.

Introductions

- Commissioner Humphreys stated that these meetings will be recorded for note taking purposes, all members were in agreement
- Each Commission Member introduced themselves, spoke about the organizations they represent, and their top priorities for the Commission.
- Commission members agreed that all of the 10 topics mentioned in Act 54 are important and should be priorities of the Commission, but workforce and retention was referenced in nearly all of the members' introductions.

Expectations

- The Commission only has a few weeks to complete the recommendations submit them to the legislature. The goal is to have a report done by October 1, 2022 so the General Assembly can take action on the recommendations in this legislative session.
- Allowable uses for one time ARPA funds include grants, payments to providers, payment to counties/other entities.

- The report should be as specific as possible given the time that the Commission has to develop recommendations.

Review of Survey Results

- The top priority identified on the survey was workforce development and retention. Some specific comments mentioned were loan repayment programs, ways to retain workers, ideas to attract workers to rural areas, the need to diversify the behavioral health workforce.
- The second highest priorities include addressing social determinants of health, the intersection of behavioral health and criminal justice, behavioral health reimbursement rates, network adequacy, and payment parity.
- Commission members almost equally wanted to focus on numerous small priorities and a few large.
- The place where members saw the most immediate need for investments is in outpatient services.
- Some suggestions for how to spend \$100 million unilaterally include:
 - A one stop shop for services, technology innovation, addressing workforce needs, focusing on the impact of trauma, and enhancements to the public safety system
 - Vote taken on where county meetings should be held
- **Motion Proposed:** Motion to support the majority opinion from the survey (to visit Dauphin County and Centre County)
 - Motion made by Dr. Slattery
 - Seconded by Dr. Hurford
 - By voice vote, all members answered in the affirmative
 - No members opposed or abstained

Next Steps

- For the next meeting the Commission will hear more on several topics in order to focus on moving to make recommendations
- The reports will be:
 - Recent federal/state investments on BH (ARPA, Gun Legislation, PA Budget)
 - HOPE for Pennsylvania Proposal - Rep. Schlossberg
 - Loan Repayment Programs from Health Hub state agencies (including DDAP, DOH, and DHS) – Natalie Krak
 - Other states' initiatives – Dale Klatzker
- **Motion Proposed:** Motion to adjourn the meeting
 - Need to make sure to do this next meeting

Next Steps

- Next meeting is on 9/1 @ 1pm in Dauphin County