

## 12/14/2023 AMHI STATEWIDE MEETING NOTES:

- Welcome and introductions
- Reviewed agenda
- Assistant Commissioner, Eric Grumdahl joined us to discuss the Mental Health Federal Block Grant
  - Background – SAMHSA's Block Grants:
    - Significant source of funding for numerous services spanning behavioral health
    - Often used with other state funding
    - Approval processes for changes are complex and not always clear
  - Last spring (March/April 2023), SAMHSA requested that states be creative and come up with ideas for how to use the block grants to advance the behavioral health system capacity
    - AMHI team submitted an application to add SMI eligibility to AMHI funds and was selected by DHS leadership
    - The process to add these funds was found to be too complex at this time, therefore DHS does not have a confirmed source of funding for an AMHI expansion
    - DHS remains interested in this possibility
  - Across the country, states including Minnesota are facing new funding pressures as pandemic-era SAMHSA funding ends
  - DHS is seeking to improve how Minnesota uses block grant funds going forward
  - DHS will continue to seek opportunities for expanding and reinforcing AMHIs
  - Questions:
    - Understand that block grants are complicated, but DHS offered certain dollar amounts up front. What was the full dollar amount that was going to be allocated? And where did those funds get spent?
      - Answer (Eric): The amount that was used as a basis, was an estimation of funding that DHS could make available to be moved to another opportunity (AMHI). When vetting these funds, it was found that doing so would not be possible at this time due to encumbrances and timelines.
    - Feedback: AMHIs felt that how it was handled made it seem like the money was guaranteed

- This was a discovery and learning process for DHS
- Funding has been secured from SAMHSA, but it will not be allocated to AMHI? How much did DHS get from SAMHSA?
  - Answer (Eric): Block grant dollar amounts are available on SAMHSA's website. DHS had 8 block grants in September. Expecting more in 2024.
  - Link to the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Grant: <https://bgas.samhsa.gov/> Username: citizenmn Password: citizen
- Was it known in July, when this was initially presented to us, that it wasn't 100% we'd be getting the funds? And if so, why was it never mentioned to us that there are some contingencies and the need to still confirm some things?
  - Answer (Eric): DHS was operating with less than complete information initially. AMHI team was not aware of these other contingencies.
- AMHI was under the impression that this was one time funding. How does that correlate to expanding?
  - Answer (Eric): DHS interested in these funds being a bridge to something more ongoing.
- Behavioral health planning council – who is that?
  - Answer (Eric): [Behavioral Health Planning Council / Minnesota Department of Human Services \(mn.gov\)](https://mn.gov/dhs/partners-and-providers/news-initiatives-reports-workgroups/behavioral-health/bh-planning-council/)
- Feedback: When I was involved in the Behavioral health planning council and my colleagues who are still on the council, see little progress in using the ideas that come from the council to actually request funds and the planning. And the voice of consumers.
- How to participate in the behavioral health planning council?
  - Answer: <https://mn.gov/dhs/partners-and-providers/news-initiatives-reports-workgroups/behavioral-health/bh-planning-council/>
- Feedback: Our region would be in the same situation. We would likely have a completely different proposal in terms of expansion vs "one-time funding"
- There is definitely a level of frustration I think all of us are feeling and have been feeling for some time given the lack of communication/passing along information in a timely

manner. Especially in the past 18 months or so, we've had lot of issues and concerns over the communication (between regular AMHI contracts, mobile crisis contracts, HCBS-FMAP dollars/contracts, and now the MHBG) between DHS and the AMHIs - how can we improve this?

- Answer (Eric): Open to suggestions and ideas. DHS is taking internal steps related to the block grants funding.
- Are consumers being involved in that planning council?
  - Answer (Eric): Yes. Seats available. <https://mn.gov/dhs/partners-and-providers/news-initiatives-reports-workgroups/behavioral-health/bh-planning-council/>
- Probably a pipe dream, but I would love to see DHS consultants back at the table consistently with AMHIs. I felt we had MUCH better communication and transparency when we had a regular DHS person who came to our meetings monthly.
  - Answer: AMHI team is doing everything they can to support AMHIs. At this time there are only two AMHI consultants. AMHI team welcomes all questions and requests via shared email.
- Feedback: If none of the AMHIs are going to get this funding, maybe AMHI reform funding should be distributed sooner.
- Feedback: I think counties/regions would happily assist providing any helpful historical information about the benefits of having DHS consultants. It really was helpful in maintaining a relationship with DHS in which we understood more behind the decisions made.
- Feedback: Thank you for the transparency and the communication around intention to continue exploring expansion of AMHI, Eric.
- AMHI team requests that questions/inquiries come to our shared AMHI email address: [MN\\_DHS\\_amhi.dhs@state.mn.us](mailto:MN_DHS_amhi.dhs@state.mn.us)
  - Naming conventions are helpful for email and documents titles
- AMHI team will start sending out the org chart related to our section of DHS Behavioral Health after each quarterly AMHI statewide meeting
- AMHI Reform – update

- MACSSA and AMHI have identified workgroup members
- Workgroup kick-off planned for January 2024
- AMHI team meeting with facilitator next week
- Planning to have final formula implementation recommendations for CY2025-2026 by mid year 2024
- HCBS FMAP – Update
  - Quarterly reporting form can be found on the AMHI website
  - Quarterly reports are needed from all grantees by the end of the month following each quarter
  - EGMS expenditure reports are required quarterly
  - Both reports need to be submitted regardless of expenditures
- 2895 Clarification
  - Agencies have one year to revise and submit corrected DHS-2895 reports. Submission of a report within the one year deadline is not a guarantee that legislative appropriations remain.
- 2024 BRASS Code Update
  - Effective 1/1/2024, there will be two new sub-service BRASS codes
    - 402 and 403 for AMHI and CSP Fiscal Host Fee
  - Fiscal Host Fee built into the AMHI and CSP applications
    - No more than 10%
  - Question: Should we use 402 for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter 2023?
    - Answer: No, not open until 1/1/2024
- 2024 Statewide Meetings
  - Quarterly meetings
  - Open to agenda items
    - Send suggestions to AMHI team email
  - Specific meeting dates and details will be posted on the AMHI website after the new year
- AMHI Evidence Based Practices (EBP) Inventory Update – Minnesota Management and Budget (MMB)
  - Refresher: Legislative amendment to the AMHI law

- Requires MMB to create and maintain an inventory of services supported by this program
- Key takeaways: all AMHIs are investing in EBPs
  - 69% of AMHI grant spending was associated with at least one EBP
- MMB is currently reviewing the initial inventory draft with DHS and the AMHI small group
  - MMB meeting with small group on 12/20/2023
  - Expecting to submit the report to Legislature in January 2024
    - Question: What is the AMHI small group?
      - Answer: It is a small group of AMHI staff that meet to provide feedback on the inventory project. There was an original pilot group for the first phase of fact finding and then all were invited to participate in the larger phase - Calls for participants were made during previous AMHI quarterly meetings.
- Potential follow up work:
  - Impact evaluations, funding and policy system analysis, programmatic changes to routinize inventory, community of practice, and culturally informed care
  - Feedback: I would strongly support an AMHI community of practice
    - Question posed: Imagine you didn't have transportation or housing needs to meet, what would you be excited to use funds for?
      - Supporting a new shelter for our community with a mental health outreach worker
      - Boost a clubhouse/drop in center in every county
      - Up front support for AMH-TCM
- Housing Policy and Homeless Programs – Gary Travis
  - Encouraged to ask questions via chat or unmute
    - Cannot take questions directly related to the newly posted RFP
      - Four core programs
        - Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH)
          - Federal and State program

- Homeless outreach, case management, and other services to help people to transition out of homelessness
- Served 2,291 people in 2021
- PATH federal grant \$832,870 and historic state match \$618,049
- New state PATH funding approximately \$4.79 million per year, totaling \$6.24 million per year
- PATH and HSASMI share eligibility requirements
- Housing with Supports for Adults with Serious Mental Illness (HSASMI)
  - Evidence-based services to help people obtain and retain permanent supportive housing
  - 1,525 people served in 2021
  - Base funding of \$4.55 million per year
  - PATH and HSASMI share eligibility requirements
- Crisis Housing Assistance Program
  - Provides short term housing assistance to prevent homelessness while a person received inpatient or residential behavioral health treatment for stabilization, including mental health or substance use treatment
    - Housing assistance covers housing related expenses such as rent or mortgage, lot fees, and utilities for up to 90 days
  - Serves adults with serious mental illness (SMI)
  - The Arc Minnesota provides statewide access through the website online application portal
    - Paper applications are available
- Bridges, Bridges Regional Treatment Center
  - Programs provide temporary rental assistance, security deposits, and access to housing supports and supportive services for people with mental illness
  - Programs are administered by MN Housing
- Other housing partnerships
  - MN Housing and DHS

- HUD Section 811 program
  - Units and federal rental subsidies for people served by Moving Home MN, PATH, or who are long term homeless
- DHS Housing and Support Services Division
  - Housing Stabilization Services
    - MN Health Care Program to provide housing services for people with disabling conditions
  - Opioid Response grants partnered with homeless outreach to help people attain and retain permanent supportive housing

○ Resources: Crisis Housing Assistance Program Paper applications and information releases can be mailed to:

The Arc Minnesota

Attn: Wendy Gerlach

P.O. Box 64007,

St. Paul, MN 55164

- Applications and information releases can be received by fax at: 763-540-0071
- [Download a paper application and Release of Information by clicking here \(English\)](#)  
Download a Release of Information by clicking here (English)  
[Download a Verification Form for Substance Use Disorder Treatment \(English\)](#)
- You can call 952-920-0855 at any time for assistance. Our phone line is available from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday. If we do not answer your call we will respond within 48 hours.
- You can also reach out at [info@arcminnesota.org](mailto:info@arcminnesota.org)

Meeting concluded at 2:59pm