

Medical Assistance Advisory Committee Meeting

January 25, 2023

Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services
Jennifer Smith, Deputy Secretary

988 Suicide & Lifeline

- In-state answer rate of 89%
- Reminder: to view PA's in-state answer rate:
 - Go to <https://988lifeline.org/our-network/>
 - Click "Lifeline Network Crisis Centers"
 - Click the "State-based Monthly Reports" tab
 - Scroll to PA

Behavioral Health Council

- Meetings are underway focused on closing gaps, reducing barriers, and identifying near-term solutions
- Future meeting schedule and information about the council is posted on the website: <https://www.governor.pa.gov/behavioral-health-council/>

Children with Complex Needs

- A complex case workgroup recommendations document is coming soon.
- DHS applied for technical assistance through the Children's Behavioral Health Policy Lab.

Policy and Legislative Updates

- Crisis Regulations
- Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility (PRTF) Regulations
- Upcoming stakeholder discussion on telehealth policy and regulations

Low-Barrier Crisis Supports

- Funding for NAMI Keystone to train program instructors and support group leaders. Funding to local affiliates to implement programming.
- Support groups are offered for both family members and peers (in-person and virtually).
- Local NAMI affiliates will provide free 8-week evidence-based educational courses:
 - **Family to Family** – empower family members with an understanding of mental illness and how to support their loved one with a mental illness. The course includes developing a crisis plan for individuals and families.
 - **Peer to Peer** – supports people living with a mental illness to understand their diagnosis and how to chart their recovery.
 - **NAMI Basics** – supports parents/caregivers of youth to understand the emergence of a mental illness and how to access resources and supports.

Safer Communities Gun Violence Intervention Funding

- Millersville University will release an RFP to fund grassroots, non-clinical mental health interventions to support individuals who have experienced gun violence.
- Youth MOVE PA was funded to implement Sources of Strength (SOS) in partnership with schools across the Commonwealth.
- SOS is an evidence-based school culture change curriculum that increases student help-seeking behavior, decreases substance use, and builds more connected school communities.

Access to Peer Support and Endorsement Training

- To increase access to peer support, OMHSAS received approval from CMS just this week to change the eligibility requirement to become a Certified Peer Specialist (CPS) from *identifying as having an SMI* to *lived experience with a mental health diagnosis*.
- OMHSAS is financially supporting increased access to endorsement training for CPSs that include crisis services, forensics, and older adults.