

To: Evaluation Committee Members

From: Joan Meisel (joanmeisel@vbbn.com)

Re: Review of Outline of Evaluation Master Plan at 11/14/12 meeting

We are sending you a copy of the material pertaining to the Evaluation Mater Plan that will be discussed at the Evaluation Committee meeting on Wednesday, November 14, 2012.

Attached is a **draft** set of PowerPoint slides that provide an outline of what may be incorporated into the Evaluation Master Plan. It is a work in progress and is being shared with you at this point so that I may be able to both answer questions about it and obtain your feedback. It contains about 80-90% of what I intend to include in the final Plan, which will be submitted to the MHSOAC by the end of this year.

The draft Plan Outline consists of several sections, including a set of prioritized evaluation activities that can be carried out by the MHSOAC, as well as a set of criteria that the MHSOAC can use to determine evaluation priorities. It is an action oriented document as opposed to a theoretical or general framework.

The attached draft is too lengthy to be presented at the Evaluation Committee meeting so we are counting on you to **review the document before the meeting and come to the meeting prepared to ask questions and discuss the Plan's content**. During the meeting, I will review the most important parts of the document but will do this only very briefly. The bulk of the meeting will be devoted to answering your questions and getting your feedback.

I have broken the document into sections. We will discuss each part separately and then at the end consider overall comments. Below, I have included some issues pertaining to each section that would be helpful to me to get your input on, so please think about these before the meeting so we can move through everything efficiently.

This will not be your only chance for comment. If you are not able to attend this meeting or have further comments that you'd like to share after the meeting, please feel free to send me comments and suggestions at any level of detail no later than **November 28**.

Section 1: Overall Outline; Background and Context [Slides #3 - #7] (10 minutes for discussion)

This material has essentially been shared with the Committee before but the slides on what the plan is and isn't have not been so definitively presented or discussed.

- **QUESTION: Does any of this surprise you or seem inappropriate?**

Section 2: Basic Evaluation Questions and Scope; Priority Setting [Slides #8 - #18] (25 minutes for discussion)

This presents the overall types of evaluation questions and evaluation methods that are expected to be achieved via the Plan. It also discusses possible criteria and a process for MHSOAC to use in adjusting evaluation priorities as the environment evolves.

- QUESTION: Are the levels of outcome consistent with your usage?
- QUESTION: Are the evaluation methods understandable and are the distinctions useful?
- QUESTION: Is the process for adjusting priorities reasonable?

Section 3: Person and System-level Priorities [Slides #19 - #34] (50 minutes for discussion)

This is the densest part of the document. It contains the recommended evaluation activities for the general mental health system. It is divided by the three types of evaluation methods and describes the recommended person-level and system-level evaluation activities by priority level. I would suggest that we try to keep the discussion of this section at a relatively high level and not get too immersed in any one recommended activity. I would hope that more detailed specific comments on specific evaluation activities would be sent to me as opposed to being discussed much at the meeting.

- QUESTION: Is this approach to organizing the material understandable? Do you have other suggestions for how to make it simpler?
- QUESTION: Are the descriptions of the evaluation activities understandable? Too brief or too detailed?
- QUESTION: Are there any glaring omissions? Any obvious mistakes?
- QUESTION: Are there major concerns with the priority designations of high, medium, and other on the evaluation activities?

Section 4: Community Level Outcomes; Individual Component Evaluation Considerations [Slides # 35 - #54] (35 minutes for discussion)

The community level outcome part describes what is meant by this level, why it should be included, and some approaches to measuring outcomes at this level. While the intent of the MHSA is to build an integrated mental health system, the funding of specific components creates the responsibility to consider the effectiveness of these separately as well as part of the whole.

- QUESTION: Is the community level outcome part understandable? Does it make sense to you?
- QUESTION: Is the inclusion of separate evaluation activities for the components reasonable?
- QUESTION: Are the kinds of evaluation activities for the components the right ones? Is there too much or no enough?

Section 5: Overarching Issues; Some Strategies for Implementation [Slides #55 - #62] (15 minutes for discussion)

The overarching issues part is designed to deal with major goals of the MHSA and major issues that underlie all of the Master Plan. There will likely be additional parts to this. The implementation strategies summarize overall recommendations to the Commission on how it goes about its evaluation responsibility.

- QUESTION: Does the inclusion of overarching issues work? If so, what other issues would you suggest putting in here? If not, are there other ways to address these issues?
- QUESTION: Are there other major implementation strategies that the MHSOAC should consider?