



Charter of the Children's Mental Health Advisory Board

I. Purpose & Scope

The principal purpose of the **Children's Mental Health Advisory Board** is to improve children's mental health outcomes in Washington County, through the development of a comprehensive and effective system of care from primary prevention to treatment and aftercare. Established in 2003, the Children's Mental Health Advisory Board is a subcommittee of the Washington County Coalition for Children. Rather than create another committee with a similar charge, the Children's Mental Health Advisory Board serves as the Advisory Board for the North Kingstown Parents As Teachers program and as a subcommittee of *Healthy Bodies, Healthy Minds Washington County (HBHM)*, the region's Health Equity Zone.

II. Principle Duties & Responsibilities

In fulfilling its charge, the Children's Mental Health Advisory Board is responsible for the following activities and functions:

- A. Establish county-wide goals related to children's mental health
- B. Provide advice and counsel to the North Kingstown Parents As Teachers (PAT) program to ensure program success, as well as to the HBHM Behavioral Health Subcommittee to ensure that the needs of children and families are represented and addressed in county-wide plans and implementation efforts.
- C. Continuously assess, identify, and prioritize community needs as they relate to children's mental health; use findings to inform priorities and strategies.
- D. Monitor data related to WCCC's and HBHM's initiatives on a regular basis, offering recommendations for performance improvement opportunities.
- E. Establish, incubate, and launch community based initiatives to address identified children's mental health needs.

F. Maximize human, financial, and other resources to expand and scale effective evidence-based programs and services and best practices to foster optimal children's mental health and development.

G. Identify other community resources and partners to expand access and improve our efforts; serve as a local ambassador for WCCC, North Kingstown PAT, and HBHM, and promote our shared work beyond Washington County as appropriate.

H. Keep abreast of major state and national issues relating to children's mental health and advocate as appropriate.

III. Guiding Values

The Children's Mental Health Advisory Board is driven by these guiding values. We believe a community is best served when ...

- Services are available to all children and families
- Children and families are active participants in services that are available to them
- Community members are active participants in determining goals and priorities that drive program development
- Program development is evidence-based or according to established best practices
- All families have strengths that are recognized and valued
- The dignity and rights of all children and families are respected and valued
- Diversity is valued, embraced, and celebrated - Further, we believe equity and inclusion across race, culture, gender, age, religion, identity, and experience are core to achieving the Coalition's vision that "***all children thrive***" in Washington County.

We espouse these values in conducting Board meetings:

- Board members respect and collaborate with one another
- Board members establish shared goals for our collective work
- Board members are accountable for individual and shared outcomes to which they have committed
- Resources and expertise of Board members and other community agencies are shared and coordinated
- Board meeting interactions reflect parity and synergy among Board members
- Effectiveness is measured by improved outcomes for children and families in Washington County
- Decision-making is driven by the best interests of children and families in Washington County.

IV. Composition

The Committee will consist of community leaders from health/behavioral health care organizations, social service organizations, higher education, faith community, vulnerable populations, and those with lived experience/family members from the South County community, including:

- Area Hospitals
- Community-Based Health, Mental Health/Substance Abuse, and Medical Organizations
- Education
- Social Service Agencies
- Substance Abuse Prevention Task Forces
- Parent Organizations
- Faith Community
- Narragansett Indian Tribe
- YMCA's and other youth serving organizations
- State Departments
- Community Members

The Committee will invite participation from other constituencies as the issues and topics at hand warrant.

The Board shall be chaired by a member of the Committee who meets these three (3) criteria:

- 1) Have expertise and professional training in children's mental health
- 2) Display a passion for children's mental health issues and a desire to make a difference
- 3) Live in Washington County.

The Board's work will be supported by the Director of the Washington County Coalition for Children.

V. Frequency of Meetings

It is expected that the Committee will meet 10 times (Sept.-June) per year. A Planning Calendar will be established each year.

Adopted 1-8-20
Updated 6-5-24