Behavioral Health Subcommittee  
Meeting Minutes  
March 2, 2022

Attendance:

Mental health: Andrea Portovedo, Rakisha Scott  
Substance use: Charlotte Sadashige, Christine Scalise  
Tobacco use: Kaitlyn Mazzilli, Uta Steinhauser

Mental health + substance use: Donald Hallcom, Debra Wentz, Suzanne Borys, Sreelekha Prakash

Moderator: Debra Wentz, Lekha Prakash, Maria Baron

Discussion:

- Subcommittee name: Behavioral Health  
- Broader, updated goal: “Improve behavioral health”  
- Behavioral health is the acceptable term for mental health + substance use/misuse  
- Substance Use Disorder refers to those with a diagnosed disorder. Substance Use and/or Substance Misuse includes prevention.  
- Drug overdose and suicide/self-harm should be included in this subcommittee, rather than in the Injury & Violence subcommittee. The members of this subcommittee cover prevention and early intervention in addition to treatment.  
- Accessibility, affordability, and mistrust all need to be addressed. Need to listen to community voices.  
- Andrea and Lekha might be willing to co-chair the committee

➢ Meeting schedule still needs to be established

- Lekha has a Zoom account and can host the meetings

- Between now and 5/20/22,
  - Review existing plans, strategies, and reports, including SHIP 2020, to see what’s already being done in NJ, so we don’t reinvent the wheel or contradict other projects
  - Review HP2030 and other states’ work for ideas
  - Look at quantitative and qualitative data, including Community Conversations
  - Brainstorm ideas for how to improve behavioral health in NJ, always keeping equity, resilience, social determinants of health (SDOH), and root causes in mind
  - Prioritize those ideas and select the top ones to include in the action plan
  - Send plan drafts to the HNJ email account along the way for review by the Advisory Council

Resources:

- Data: Healthy Living and Tools and Resources pages on HNJ website
- Data: HL ACT 2022 Info.pdf in Teams
- All other files in the Teams account