

Action Item A-2

CBH Advisory Council

Background:

Colonial Behavioral Health's interest in pursuing recognition as a Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) under Federal SAMHSA structures and regulations. We were one of the original eight CSBs to partner with the Commonwealth of Virginia to develop a model for Virginia's CSBs in 2016-2017. Unfortunately, Virginia decided to not pursue a second round of federal funding to continue this development.

In 2023, CBH was one of two Virginia CSBs to apply for direct funding to assist with achieving CCBHC certification. Unfortunately, neither Virginia agency grant submission was successful. We are currently awaiting the next available Federal opportunity to submit for this funding.

Having become very familiar with CCBHC Certification Criteria over the past several years, we are aware of one significant development need that we can address without additional funding. CCBHCs must either have a governing Board of Directors with a minimum of 51% consumer or family membership (with a preference toward consumers), or have an advisory structure that guarantees ongoing, regular and meaningful input into agency issues.

The means by which CSB Boards are appointed (by local governments who carry no obligations related to CCBHC governance) makes it imperative for CSBs to implement the advisory structures allowed for in the CCBHC criteria.

It is staff's recommendation that the CBH Board approve creation of the Advisory Council by means of approving the attached Policy. It is further recommended that the Council be operationalized effective January 1, 2025, in order for the necessary guidelines, application and approval processes, and Advisory Council feedback methods be developed prior to that date.

Recommended Motion:

That the CBH Board approve the proposed Advisory Council Policy with the following understandings:

- That CBH staff will draft supportive policies, and other needed guidelines for CBH Board review prior to soliciting applications for Council membership;
- That CBH staff will review applications for membership and submit them to the Board (in a manner consistent with processes defined in the previous bullet). CBH staff will also submit to the Board their recommendations for appointment, as necessary; and
- That the terms of inaugural Council members will begin on January 1, 2025.