

Minutes of the Behavioral Health Coordinating Council

The Behavioral Health Coordinating Council Committee met on Friday, December 9, 2016, at 7:30 AM in Room 400 of the Government Center, 115 East Washington Street, Bloomington, IL.

Members Present: Chairperson John McIntyre; Honorable Elizabeth Robb, retired Chief Circuit Judge; Ms. Stephanie Barisch, Center of Youth and Family Service; Ms. Diane Schultz, The Baby Fold; Ms. Joni Painter, City of Bloomington; Mr. Mark Jontry, Regional Office of Education; Ms. Sonja Reece, McLean County Board of Health; Mr. Tom Barr, Center for Human Services; Ms. Laura Furlong, MARC First; Colleen Kannady, Advocate Bromenn; Mr. Chad Boore. OSF St. Joseph Hospital

Members Absent: Mr. Kevin McCarthy, Town of Normal, Mr. Russ Hagen, Chestnut Health Systems; Mr. Steve Denault, Country Financial; Ms. Laurette Stiles, State Farm Ms. Karen Zangerle, PATH

Staff Present: Mr. Bill Wasson, County Administrator; Ms. Hannah Eisner, Assistant County Administrator; Ms. Amy Brooke, Recording Secretary, County Administrator's Office; Mr. Don Knapp, Assistant Civil State's Attorney

Department Heads/
Elected Officials

Present: Ms. Susan Schafer, McLean County Board

Others Present: Mr. Dave Sharar, Chestnut Health Systems

Chairperson McIntyre called the meeting to order at 7:35 AM and declared a quorum. Mr. Dave Sharar stood in for Mr. Russ Hagen.

Chairperson McIntyre reviewed the six principles of the current strategy for addressing behavioral health issues in the County: onboard people in the community to help; identify the people you hope to serve; build a diversion strategy; create warm handoffs; initiate and deliver ongoing services effectively; and leverage available funding streams to optimize care.

Mr. Wasson shared that the strategy and outline presented is one that the County has been working with several jurisdictions across the country to develop. It brings together successful elements from multiple jurisdictions. The elements include items that have been addressed and items that still need to be addressed within the community.

Mr. Wasson shared the Department of Health and Human Services Final HIPPA Guidance in relationship to lawful custody. This relates to mental health information and the ability to share that information with criminal justice agencies. The hope is that the new language will begin to address some of the concerns raised in the first meeting of the Behavioral Health Coordinating Council. Mr. Wasson reviewed the questions addressed in the final "HIPPA Guidance" related to lawful custody.

Mr. Wasson acknowledged that the State Mental Health Code might pose more difficulties in the release of mental health information. The County is invested in working with the legislators to address issues that need to be worked through to facilitate the sharing of necessary information when legally possible.

Mr. Wasson highlighted the HIPPA Guidance related to pre-arrest diversion. HIPPA allows providers to share information with law enforcement in order to lessen or prevent a serious threat to the health or safety of individual or the public. Mr. Wasson shared the definitions of lawful custody as related to HIPPA. Mr. Wasson stated that this provides guidance in sharing information with law enforcement to evaluate if diversion is a reasonable alternative. The County will be working with organizations to set up systems to allow the sharing of information. Law enforcement does not need large amounts of information. Rather, they only need what is necessary to understand the individual and their background to identify the most appropriate situation for the individual.

Mr. Wasson shared that the County is working with other jurisdictions to introduce a bill to address upcoming issues. The intention of the confidentiality and privacy protections were never to prevent people from getting appropriate treatment or diversion. That will be a collaborative process locally and legislative.

Mr. Barr suggested that Mr. Wasson reach out to the mental health trade associations. These organizations will have other lobbyist who may be helpful.

Mr. Wasson pointed out the data sharing agreement that the County has with the University of Chicago's Center of Data Science and Public Policy. The County is the third jurisdiction from across the country. The University of Chicago is looking at over 300 different elements as they evaluate these data sets with the goal of being able to produce projective analytics. These analytics will help to identify individuals who are at high risk and who need wrap around services.

Mr. Wasson shared that the challenge is to connect the data from different sources and see where there is overlap. Individuals will be anonymized. The County will work with the University of Chicago to talk to the different service entities to discuss processes to share data that identify individuals without compromising the individual's identity.

Ms. Kannady asked if there would be an ability to get a location or zip code for these individuals and overlay that with this process.

Mr. Wasson affirmed that this would be part of the process.

Chairperson McIntyre highlighted the steps that are part of being building a diversion strategy: specialized police-based response models, mobile crisis team, law enforcement tools, and 24/7 Crisis Hotlines.

Chairperson McIntyre highlighted some of the key aspects of the Justice Mental Health Collaboration Grant through the Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Assistance. These include a better understanding of the way the criminal justice and behavioral health systems intersect, improving responses to those with mental health disorders who are involved in the justice system, and working towards data driven collaborations and solutions. This grant will aid in providing two additional CIT trainings.

Mr. Wasson noted that the grant allows us for the first time to train dispatchers across the City, Town, and County. It encourages wide participation from officers, jail personnel, dispatchers, EMS, Crisis Mobile Team, and others involved in the crisis system.

Mr. Wasson stated that we are pushing to include CIT training as part of mandatory training for law enforcement officers. Currently, CIT training is not mandatory in the State of Illinois. It is mandatory in many states across the country.

Mr. Jontry shared about the Youth Stakeholder Group's application for a grant through SAMHSA. Initially they were positive about moving forward and had begun collecting the necessary data and information. After an initial inventory, they did not feel adequately positioned to meet all of the requirements of the grant. They decided not to move forward with the application. The group decided to continue to meet and inventory their services. This will allow them to be aware of upcoming grants that may be appropriate and identify people who may be in a place to help make sure that those applications.

Ms. Barisch noted that this grant is released every two years. They may be in a better position to apply at that time. She also noted that this grant was very rigid. There was a concern that it might not allow them to focus on our County's specific needs.

Ms. Reece asked if the grant is structured in the same way each time.

Ms. Barisch stated that she believes it is very similar and it is a system of care grant. This could be used as a template.

Chairperson McIntyre addressed the issue of leveraging funding from a variety of sources. He stated that he has gotten questions regarding the home rule sales tax. The County can use the pledged money for only the following purposes: debt services related to the expansion and renovation of the McLean County Law & Justice Center Detention Facilities, criminal justice services related to expanded and renovated detention facility operations for behavioral health services, and behavioral health services and programs consistent with the McLean County Mental Health Action Plan.

Chairperson McIntyre stated that they are beginning to look for a steering committee to advise the Behavioral Health Coordinating Council. Chairperson McIntyre is continuing to achieve community participation through the roundtable discussions.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Amy L. Brooke".

Amy L. Brooke
Recording Secretary