

Minutes of the Behavioral Health Coordinating Council

The Behavioral Health Coordinating Council Committee met on Friday, December 11, 2020, at 7:30 a.m. in Room 400 of the Government Center, 115 East Washington Street, Bloomington, IL.

Members Present: Chairman John McIntyre; (In-Person attendance) Ms. Elizabeth Robb; Ms. Sonja Reece, McLean County Board of Health; Mr. Mark Jontry, Regional Office of Education; Diane Schultz, The Baby Fold; Mr. Kevin McCarthy, Town of Normal; Ms. Joni Painter, City of Bloomington; Mr. Tom Barr, Center for Human Services; Ms. Karen Zangerle, PATH; Ms. Stephanie Barisch, Center for Youth and Family Solutions; Kristin Adams, Country Financial;; Judge Rebecca Foley; Ms. Susan Schafer, McLean County Board; Brian Wipperman, Marcfirst (Remote Attendance)

Members Absent: Ms. Colleen Kannaday, Carle BroMenn; Ms. Donna Schoenfeld; Ms. Lynn Fulton, OSF St. Joseph Medical Center; Mr. Dave Sharar, CEO, Chestnut Health Systems; Ms. Lisa Thompson, Project Oz; Mr. Eric Thome, State Farm

Staff Present: Ms. Trisha Malott, Behavioral Health Coordinating Council Supervisor; Ms. Camille Rodriguez, County Administrator; Ms. Cassy Taylor, Assistant County Administrator; Ms. Julie Morlock, recording secretary, Amanda McCambridge, BHCC OSSII

Others Present: Chrissy Jennings, Carle BroMenn

Chairman John McIntyre called the called to order at 7:46 AM.

Chairman McIntyre presented the minutes from the September 11, 20 meeting for approval.

Motion by Jontry/Schafer to approve minutes from September 11, 2020 regular meeting.

Motion carried

Ms. Trisha Malott, Behavioral Health Coordinating Council Supervisor stated that the 2020-2021 Behavioral Health Community Virtual Forum has officially begun, and sessions are scheduled through the end of April. Ms. Malott stated that the planning committee continues to reach out for presenters for the remaining topics the committee discussed to be presented. Ms. Malott noted that the website continues to be updated when a new forum session is scheduled or added. There is also a link to register for each session on the county website. Forum sessions are also added and promoted through Facebook and other social media outlets. Ms. Malott noted that WGLT and the Pantagraph both did articles and interviews about the Forum. Ms. Malott showed the attendees how people sign up for the Forum through the website. She also indicated that the system is set up to keep attendance and to send emails to registered members. There is also a participant survey to gather feedback at the conclusion of every session. Ms. Malott stated that positive feedback has been received so far. A separate YouTube channel was created that is linked through the County website for all the

sessions that are taking place. The sessions are all being recorded so that they can be watched at a later date for people that are unable to attend it live. Ms. Malott stated that next week's session is Ending the Silence for Families which is being presented by Colleen O'Connor and Neil Iden. This session is help parents involved with middle school and high school age children recognize signs of mental illness and to also know how to have conversations with their child and identify when there are concerns.

Chairman McIntyre discussed that annual updates would be provided from several BHCC member organizations. Ms. Zangerle from PATH had technology difficulties and was not present initially to provide PATH's update first. She shared their update later in the meeting.

Mr. Wipperman stated that Marcfirst moved the Pediatric Therapy Center to Carle BroMenn Medical Center and thanked them for assisting in that. The SPICE program was working in a confined space of about 1000 square feet and only had 4 rooms for pediatric therapy. In a typical year the SPICE program serves 800 children. The new location is 4700 square feet with a 1000-foot motor gym and 1000-foot state of the art sensory gym. SPICE now has several rooms for therapy and they also have a casting room. With this new space they also have added ABA Therapy services. Mr. Wipperman noted that they have also added a Behavioral Health Clinic. It will be a huge help for those that are transitioning out of school. The Behavioral Health Clinic will see adults that are dually diagnosed that are on the PUNS waiting list. Mr. Wipperman offered to take people on a tour of the new space.

Chrissy Jennings from Carle BroMenn spoke on behalf of BHCC member Colleen Kannaday who was unable to attend. Ms. Jennings provided an update on the transition to the new mental health units. Ms. Jennings provided feedback from staff and patients. The patients like the open concept and the larger rooms that they meet in. The patients feel that the new space is a more comfortable and sharing environment. The staff appreciate the brightness of the space and feel that it is more of a healing environment. Ms. Jennings stated that they are continuing from a growth perspective to be open up to full capacity and will be recruiting for a physician and staff to ensure they are providing safe care. The addiction and recovery service line has been expanding and the detox unit has flourished. Ms. Jennings indicated that because of the space they have been able to continue to provide services despite social distancing.

Ms. Malott indicated that McLean County Triage Center expanded their hours from 7:30am – 3:00am 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Ms. Malott noted that in October and November the usage of Triage has increased. Ms. Malott stated that there was no specific reason for the increased need but noted that there was intentional advertising done. Additionally, Ms. Malott pointed out the surge of crisis intervention Triage has provided goes along with demand for services seen by other McLean County providers.

Ms. Malott went over information provided in the packet. She indicated that in November, Triage continued to see a mix of referral sources. Some people are coming in because they saw an ad somewhere. There are two taillight ads on the back of Connect Transit buses.

There also have been individuals that come in that heard about Triage through their friends or family. There have been a number of individuals that have come in within the last month or two that are homeless, and their discharge location is back to the shelter that they originated from. Ms. Malott stated fewer clients have been discharged to the hospital. Triage continues to see that the majority of people coming have received a previous mental health diagnosis and previously received mental health services. Ms. Malott included suicidal ideation information in the packet. She indicated that this information was not previously included in the packet.

Ms. Malott went over quarterly data and noted that the data is from September, October, and November. Ms. Malott noted Triage continues to have individuals brought in by law enforcement and average length for them being involved has been less than 10 minutes which is generally less time than if they are booking or taking them to the hospital. There have been a couple instances where law enforcement had to have a longer conversation with the staff about the individual, they were bringing in but overall, maintaining less than 10 minutes. Feedback has been positive from clients and law enforcement. Continued data includes age range, how many are receiving an assessment, and how many are not. Some individuals coming in are not in crisis, but they don't know who provides certain services and Triage provides them with that referral. Some clients who have previously presented to Triage and have been assessed and just have a question, so they fall into the no assessment category.

Ms. Malott asked if anyone had any questions. Diane Schultz asked about numbers of referrals coming from family and friends and was surprised to see that about half the referrals are a self-referral process. Ms. Malott indicated that some self-referrals are a repeat person. Ms. Malott provided an example. Ms. Schultz stated that the number reflects positively in all kinds of ways on this program. The fact that they are coming back on their own after they have become aware and the ability of people to have a point of access is a very complimentary and noteworthy statistic. Elizabeth Robb asked about number of Triage staff – Trisha stated that there are 3 on staff at any one time which includes a Triage Specialist, Visitors Aide, and a Peer. Total staff is about 15 staff including full and part time. Ms. Robb asked for a breakdown of staff at the next meeting. Susan Schafer asked if the homeless clients that have come into Triage have been able to be served as FUSE clients. Ms. Malott indicated many have not been on the FUSE list. If they are an active FUSE client then Triage has that list. She indicated there is not an overlap of names in the systems that keep track of data. Tom Barr asked if there is a list of the number of unduplicated clients seen since the program started. Ms. Malott noted that the unduplicated data was included in the packet and went over the data.

Ms. Malott provided updates on the FUSE program. FUSE continues to do outreach to individuals. FUSE has made some modifications in how the clients are served to ensure that staff and clients are safe and socially distanced due to COVID-19. FUSE does outreach to the top 25 of the intersection of the matching tool. These individuals have the highest use of the justice and homeless system and have had a behavioral health indicator in the last 18 months. Ms. Malott went over the information provided in the packet. Ms. Malott indicated that

once FUSE has contact with an individual, an exchange of information is signed to allow FUSE to gather emergency room visits/health records. One of the things FUSE tracks is their ER visits before they became a FUSE participant and compare how many ER visits after they become a client. Ms. Malott continued to go over the data in the packet. Ms. Malott provided an update on the number that fall into mainstream voucher program and others that they have found housing for. Mr. McIntyre asked about housing and assistance provided. Ms. Malott indicated that there is no free housing, everyone is paying rent or has a voucher to assist with rent. Ms. Malott noted that FUSE has been able to establish relationships with a couple of landlords to find places that are suitable for FUSE participants and are aware that daily contact with the participants occurs. Mr. McIntyre asked about availability of vouchers. Ms. Malott indicated that there are 13 mainstream vouchers. BHA did receive additional funding after the initial award, which increased the total number. She said all are in use and none are currently available and there is a wait list. There are 3 FUSE participants who have mainstream vouchers.

Ms. Malott went over the 2021 budget information provided in the packet. The information provided in the packet only represents one quarter of the portion received by the County through the Intergovernmental Agreement for Public Safety and Mental Health funds. Ms. Malott indicated that the budget funds the Triage Center, FUSE, and a pending grant for youth and adolescent services. Additionally, the budget also funds the BHCC Forum and continuing education for community professionals. Ms. Malott noted that the budget is less than in years past and indicated that she has found ways to continue to provide services with the decreased budget.

CHIP/CHNA Behavioral Health Priority Action Team has had discussions regarding becoming a trauma informed County. Ms. Malott indicated that CHIP/CHNA Behavioral Health Priority Action Team identified benefits of the geographic county taking steps to be more trauma informed and resilience oriented. She indicated shorter term goals of the initiative are to begin to understand how many organizations are trauma informed and resilience oriented, and how far they are in the process of becoming trauma informed. It had been determined that this task will fall under BHCC, given the tie to the County and the BHCC member organizations. Part of the initial planning for the Trauma Informed County initiative will be needing to determine what the process will be to measure this. Additionally, there is a need to determine what assessment tool organizations will use and how does the group get organizations onboard to understand the importance of becoming trauma informed and resilience oriented. Ms. Malott stated that she has put together a group that will be the Core Implementation Team. This group met once and as part of the planning, discussed who else needed to be at the table. The group wants to ensure that there is representation from all populations as well as different parts of the community. Ms. Malott reached out to BHCC members including the Regional Office of Education and others who have expressed interest in the past. She also reached out to individuals who have had self-identified trauma in their own history. The next meeting will be in January and they will begin to establish group goals. Ms. Malott stated that one of her goals

is for this to be a working group with a coming together of ideas. She indicated that she is moving it forward but wants it to be a community project.

Mr. McIntyre thanked all for contributions to the newsletter.

Mr. McIntyre stated he is still interested in having a round table session but due to Covid it has been difficult to meet in person. Mr. McIntyre indicated he would still like to meet regarding youth services. He will be reaching out to some members of the group. Mr. McIntyre stated he had asked Ms. Schafer to go back and analyze progress made on the Mental Health Action Plan and evaluate any changes or updates that should be made after 5 years. Ms. Schafer indicated she would reach out to individuals. She thought the original plan was a good start to begin and a lot has been learned. The pandemic has introduced things that they had not considered before.

Karen Zangerle, PATH–Karen joined the meeting late due to technical difficulties. Karen stated that they are preparing for winter and their biggest fear right now is housing the homeless because they have lost half of the beds at Safe Harbor due to social distancing. She stated that they are also limiting beds at Home Sweet Home Mission. Ms. Zangerle indicated that they usually get about \$6,000 from FEMA for hotels and this year they got \$18,000 and they had another source that gave \$25,000. Their first goal is to not keep people in hotels for very long, but she stated that they will be able to keep them off the streets due to the extra funding. Ms. Zangerle noted that they now have added texting services at PATH and have a full-time person who will be working evenings to work on marketing the texting number for the age range of 18-24. She hopes to have volunteers trained soon. Ms. Zangerle stated that right now they are not actively pursuing any funds and are giving themselves about 6 months to determine any needs they might have for the texting service.

Mr. McIntyre indicated the next meeting is scheduled for Friday, March 12, 2021. He asked if there was any other business, hearing nothing he thanked everyone and adjourned the meeting at 8:47 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda McCambridge

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BHCC OSSII, Recording Secretary