

Minutes of the Behavioral Health Coordinating Council

The Behavioral Health Coordinating Council Committee met on Friday, June 11, 2021 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; Dianne Schultz, The Baby Fold; Mr. Tom Barr, Center for Human Services; Judge Rebecca Foley; Ms. Susan Schafer, McLean County Board; Brian Wipperman, Marcfirst; Ms. Lisa Thompson, Project Oz; Colleen O'Connor, NAMI President (Livingston, McLean County); David Taylor, United Way of McLean County, Ms. Colleen Kannaday, Carle BroMenn

Members Absent: Ms. Kristin Adams, COUNTRY Financial; Ms. Stephanie Barisch, Center for Youth and Family Solutions; Ms. Lynn Fulton, OSF St. Joseph Medical Center; Ms. Karen Zangerle, PATH; Mr. Kevin McCarthy, Town of Normal; Ms. Donna Schoenfeld; Mr. Eric Thome, State Farm; Mr. Dave Sharar, Chestnut Health Systems; Ms. Joni Painter, City of Bloomington.

Staff Present: Ms. Trisha Malott, Behavioral Health Coordinating Council Supervisor; Ms. Cassy Taylor, Interim County Administrator; Christopher Spanos, Assistant State's Attorney; Ms. Samantha Vasquez, Assistant State's Attorney; Kevin McCall, Behavioral Health Specialist; Amanda McCambridge, Recording Secretary

Others Present: None

Chairman John McIntyre called the called to order at 7:35AM.

Chairman McIntyre presented the minutes from the March 12, 2021 meeting for approval.

Motion by Taylor/Reece to approve minutes from March 12, 2021 regular meeting.

Motion carried

Chairman McIntyre introduced Cassy Taylor to the group. Chairman McIntyre stated Cassy Taylor was appointed to be the Interim County Administrator last night.

Chairman McIntyre stated that Joni Painter is no longer on the city council and will be replaced. Chairman McIntyre thanked Joni for her services to the BHCC. Chairman

McIntyre also announced that Tom Barr will be retiring in March. Karen Zangerle will also be retiring within the coming months.

Mr. Jontry gave an update on what the school districts have been doing for behavioral health in the last 15 months. The overriding approach has been to meet the basic needs of students and staff. A lot of time and effort has been spent on food security. The district also spent time developing a Covid toolkit around best practices on mindfulness and other strategies. During remote learning the school system had a flagging system in place due to the students being in isolation. The system flagged inappropriate searches such as something regarding suicide which would trigger the districts to mobilize appropriate staff to intervene. In the last year Mr. Jontry stated they have seen an uptick in restorative practices training requests in our districts. Kevin Jones has been utilized more in the community and in the schools. Schools are focusing on increasing the FTE count of the number of social workers and school psychologists in order to server the increased needs for behavioral health. They are utilizing family and parent coordinators to make sure they are meeting the needs of the entire family. SEL screeners are being utilized more. The districts are leveraging partnerships with social service agencies to try to increase the number of individuals that are coming into our schools to provide services. Mr. Jontry stated that the schools will be spending time on staff's mental health. Students and staff will be back in school full time in the fall in person. The districts will be utilizing the Illinois Safe2Help app. The Safe2Help app is a crisis help line for students having suicidal thoughts. Mr. Jontry stated that at this time the students and staff will be required to wear masks for the start of the school year in the fall. Mark asked if anyone had any questions and Ms. Schultz asked if they were going to be restarting the Behavioral Health in Schools group. Mr. Jontry stated that they are going to restart the group. Ms. Schafer asked Mr. Jontry to expand on the district 87 grant. Mr. Jontry stated that the grant is called the ABLE grant which is through the Illinois Children's Mental Health Foundation. This grant will help with leveraging some partnerships and to be able to add some parent facilitators at the high school and junior high. The grant will also help with restorative practice activities. Mr. Jontry stated he could have Dr. Wolf come to a meeting and share more about the grant. They are still in the beginning stages of the grant.

Ms. Schafer gave an update on the Mental Health Action Plan. Ms. Schafer stated that the plan was originally written as stand-alone sections, but has found that these need to be intertwined and have more specific information. Ms. Schafer showed a diagram during the meeting that is more detailed than the original plan. One of the sections that Ms. Schafer discussed was collaboration. Ms. Schafer stated that we have collaborated with CHIP, MCHD, OSF, Carle, Chestnut, FQHC, CJCC, JJC, and ROSC. Ms. Schafer also stated that we also just started the McLean County Trauma Informed Initiative. This will be beneficial to the county in the long run, but it is a long project to embark on. There is over 90 million in funding for McLean County under the American Recovery Plan Act for mental health. Ms. Schafer stated that we need to be thoughtful with these funds. Ms. Schafer spoke about the 449 House Bill pilot program which is the same as FUSE. She

stated that since there is grant money that the FUSE money could possibly be used for other services.

Ms. Shafer spoke about Tier 1 – 4 of the Youth Plan.

Ms. Schafer stated that she has updated our data map. Our data map is a goal as to how to use data. Ms. Schafer went over the data that is collected and how it is useful to track and address where problems exist. Ms. Schafer went over the data that she is collecting.

Ms. Schafer talked about the most popular attended BHCC sessions. The sessions that were the most popular were the ones regarding race and LGBTQ.

Ms. Malott spoke about a program at Heartland Community College beginning in the fall. They are starting to offer course work specific to recovery and training peers. The courses aid individuals in recovery who want to pursue their certified recovery support specialist credential. This would count as part of the requirement for the 1000 hours that they need to accumulate. Heartland Community College is also working to partner with organizations for apprenticeships where individuals would be able to be placed and have on the job training. They are planning to attend the September meeting to share more information regarding what courses that they are offering.

Ms. Malott included an annual report in the packet and went over the data in more detail during the meeting. The report included data from 2020. This report did not include all the Forum Sessions. Next year's report will have the data from the remaining 18 sessions that took place. Ms. Malott stated that we are in the planning stages of this year's forum and anticipate an in-person day and will also offer virtual sessions. Ms. Malott stated that in 2020, quarterly newsletters began as a way to enhance and serve as the conduit of information sharing. In the newsletters, BHCC was able to highlight 10 different programs and agencies.

Ms. Malott went over information regarding the FUSE program that she also included in the packet. In 2020 the FUSE program had 6 clients served. The FUSE program has grown and currently is serving 10 clients and has a goal of reaching 20 by the end of this year. In the 18 months prior to joining the FUSE program in 2020 the 6 FUSE participants collectively spent over 900 days in shelters. Since joining FUSE, 5 of the participants became permanently housed in 2020 and the 6th client became housed in January of 2021. The 6 participants had 30 justice contacts before joining FUSE and only 5 justice contacts after joining FUSE. ER usage has gone down significantly with the 6 participants since they have joined the FUSE program. Ms. Malott went over data that is being tracked of the FUSE participants. Mr. Barr asked about the status of being able to bill Medicaid. Ms. Malott stated that programs are licensed with the state and have Medicaid numbers, but the biggest hurdle has been getting through the credentialing process. Ms. Malott stated that she is exploring an external contractual vendor to partner with to be able to help with the credentialing process, so billing can begin.

Ms. Malott went over data included in the packet regarding the total cost of recidivism with one individual.

Ms. Malott went over information regarding the Triage program. 63% of the clients in 2020 in the program are unduplicated. 91% have received a behavioral health diagnosis at some point in the past. Most of the individuals have seen a provider in the past and have received a diagnosis. The largest age range that was seen in Triage was 31–40-year-olds. 56 clients were seen in Triage in 2020. 8 minutes is the average amount of time that the officers spent in Triage in 2020. More recent months have seen an increase of individuals that have come through Triage. In the month of May 2021, 21 individuals sought services at Triage.

Ms. Robb asked about the youth grant that was discussed at the last meeting. She would like the numbers of youth being served for the next meeting.

Ms. Malott gave update on NYU tool, noting that the County is approaching phase 3 of the diversion to treatment tool. Current efforts are focusing on working on the technology component. Also being navigated are some policy questions and looking at what would be an allowable diversion. Ms. Malott stated the goal is to implement the tool by September.

Patricia Durrell did a presentation regarding NeuroRestorative. Patricia is the Central Region Executive Director of NeuroRestorative. NeuroRestorative started in 1977 in Carbondale, Illinois. It was one of the first residential brain injury programs in the US. Today NeuroRestorative is one of the largest and most experienced providers of post rehabilitation services for people of all ages with primarily brain injury, spinal cord injury, and neurological impairments. NeuroRestorative serves children in 3 states. Patricia stated that they decided they need a central location between their Chicago location and their Carbondale location, and they chose the Bloomington Normal area. They have schools associated with their residential programs. The class sizes are no more than 10. The Chicago location serves children ages 14–21 The Bloomington location will serve 14–21 as well. Carbondale serves children from age 11–21. They treat children with learning disabilities, emotional disturbance, speech language impairment, multiple disabilities, health impairment, and autism spectrum disease. Their admission criteria are diagnosis of neurological impairment, ASD, bipolar disorder, and traumatic and acquired brain injury. They offer an array of comprehensive services based on the needs of each adolescents such as PTOT, speech, behavior analysis, counseling, vocational training, case management, medical care coordination, physical consultation, life skill training, family education training, and adjustment counseling. They have a dynamic learning plan that includes positive behavior interventions and supports and education behavior and social learning environments. They have 3 homes identified in the Bloomington Normal area. One will be done in July. They have a school identified as well. They hope to have their first admission by September or October. The adolescents will be from all over the

state, not just the Bloomington Normal Area. The goal for the adolescents in the program is to be able to eventually transition them home. If they do end up transitioning back home, they help them with transitioning back to their previous school. Some of the adolescents stay in the program until they are 21 years old.

Mr. McIntyre indicated the next meeting is scheduled for Friday, September 10, 2021. He asked if there was any other business, hearing nothing he thanked everyone and adjourned the meeting at 9:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda McCambridge

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BHCC OSSII, Recording Secretary