

Minutes of the Behavioral Health Coordinating Council

The Behavioral Health Coordinating Council Committee met on Friday, December 17, 2021 at 7:30 a.m. in Room 400 of the Government Center, 115 East Washington Street, Bloomington, IL.

Members Present: Chairman John McIntyre; Elizabeth Robb; Ms. Sonja Reece, McLean County Board of Health; Mr. Mark Jontry, Regional Office of Education(Virtual) ; Diane Schultz, The Baby Fold; Mr. Tom Barr, Center for Human Services; Judge Rebecca Foley; Ms. Ms. Schafer , McLean County Board; Brian Wipperman, Marcfirst, Ms. Lynn Fulton, OSF St. Joseph Medical Center, Colleen O'Connor, NAMI President (Livingston, McLean County) David Taylor, Executive Director of United Way, Ms. Stephanie Barisch (Virtual), Center for Youth and Family Solutions; Mr. Kevin McCarthy, Town of Normal;

Members Absent: Colleen Kannaday, Carle BroMenn, Ms. Lynn Fulton, OSF St. Joseph Medical Center, Mr. Eric Thome, State Farm; Kristin Adams, Country Financial

Staff Present: Ms. Malott, Behavioral Health Coordinating Council Supervisor; Ms. Ms. Cassy Taylor, County Administrator; Christopher Spanos, Assistant States Attorney, Amanda Hartley; Recording Secretary

Others Present: Ms. Joan Hartman in place of Mr. Dave Sharar, Chestnut; CEO, Ms. Joanne Glancy (in place of Lisa Thompson) Project Oz; CEO

Chairman John McIntyre called the called to order at 7:38AM.

Chairman McIntyre presented the minutes from the September 10, 2021 meeting for approval.

Motion by Reece/Taylor to approve minutes from September 10, 2021 regular meeting.

Motion carried

Ms. Taylor stated that the new Behavioral Health Coordinating Council Coordinator couldn't attend this meeting. Vanessa Granger-Belcher is a licensed clinical professional counselor. She comes to us from Lifestance Health. Vanessa has great experience working with 2 college counseling centers.

It was announced at the County Board meeting last night that Ms. Taylor is the new County Administrator. Congratulations Ms. Taylor!

Mr. Workman from PATH gave an update on 9-8-8 status. Congress passed a law two years ago to implement the new three-digit number for mental health and crisis phone calls. It is being implemented as of July 1st in the State of Illinois. They have issued 590 grants for crisis teams throughout the state. An RFP was sent out in November for the 9-8-8 call center. PATH put in to be the call center for 9-8-8 for the state. They are supposed to be making a decision and notifying the select vendor on December 21st. Mr. Workman stated that the RFP was opened nationally so they aren't sure when they will find out. The state is scrambling and rushing to get this implemented. There is a national vendor called Vibrant that SAMSHA has hired. Vibrant is also the national vendor that has been doing the national suicide prevention lifeline for the last 20 years. PATH has had a contract with Vibrant for nine years. The state is scrambling to meet the federal requirements and we aren't the only state that is scrambling. There is a prefile bill that is going to look at establishing a trust to fund 9-8-8 in perpetuity. They are not sure what they are going to tax yet. It appears that there will be a cell phone surcharge on phone bills, but there could be alternative methods for funding. PATH has been involved for over a year with the development of 9-8-8 in Illinois on the division of mental health's advisory panel.

Mr. Barr asked since the RFP was opened up nationally if Mr. Workman knew how many organizations they are competing with. Mr. Workman stated once an RFP goes out, they can't give any information.

Mr. Barr addressed Chairman McIntyre. He stated in terms of crisis services one change that has occurred is incorporating engagement specialists on the crisis on call services. Mr. Barr stated that an engagement specialist is someone with lived behavioral health experience.

Ms. Schafer thanked everyone that has provided input to the Mental Health Action Plan and also to the people that wrote some parts of the plan as well. Ms. Schafer talked about where the Mental Health Action Plan started. She looked at the plan and the things that have been accomplished since it started and where we are now and what still needs to be accomplished. Ms. Schafer has made corrections to the executive summary portion. Ms. Schafer asked about a paragraph that she moved to page 25. She originally had it in the executive summary portion and thinks that it should be moved back to the executive summary portion. Ms. Barisch feels that it would be good to have in both locations and Mr. McCarthy feels the same.

Sonja feels there should be a bullet point list of things that we have accomplished and the things that still need to be done.

Chairman McIntyre stated that there will be a special meeting on January 14th to come back with this plan and offer any suggestions or revisions. A vote will take place on January 14th with the acceptance of the Mental Health Action Plan.

Ms. Schafer went over page 5 of the Mental Health Action Plan which talks about Recommendations for the McLean County Government to do. She asked if anyone had

any comments or questions. There are acronyms in this portion and a member suggested that the acronyms be spelled out in the action plan because some members may not know what they are. Ms. Schafer stated that there will be an acronym list that will be included in the document.

Ms. Schafer stated that there is a new Justice Involved section to the Mental Health Action Plan. Ms. Schafer spoke about The Sequential Intercept Model (SIM) and why this section was added.

Ms. Schafer stated that the Illinois Supreme Court had a summit and they put out a report. As a result of the report Ms. Schafer has been talking with Will Scanlon (Trial Court Administrator) about how to develop a relationship between the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council and the Behavioral Health Coordinating Council. Ms. Taylor feels that the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council and the Behavioral Health Coordinating Council should be intertwined on a regular basis and not just with the completion of the Mental Health Action Plan. The work that the courts do is greatly impacted by the mental health of our community. For about a year the BHCC coordinator has been giving updates at the CJCC meeting, but Ms. Taylor feels that there needs to be more active participation. It would help the judges to know more information of the resources available before they make their sentencing decisions. Judge Foley agreed and stated that it is imperative that we intertwine these two councils on an ongoing basis.

The Illinois Supreme Court announced a \$550,000 grant that they received from BJA and they are having mapping sessions for each region. Judge Foley is participating in our region which is region four. The grant is a justice and mental health grant as part of the justice and mental health collaboration program and will be used to continue to consult with the national center for state courts and to support implementation and evaluation of short-term pilot projects to divert the mentally ill or those with cooccurring disorders from the traditional justice system.

Mr. Barr asked about the outcome of the FUSE program and the Triage Center as far as the progress that the programs have had in reducing the number of incarcerations and hospitalizations. Ms. Schafer stated there is a challenge with the data and how we need a more centralized location. Trisha stated that within the written report that it does capture the cumulative reduction in the services for FUSE clients. We aren't able to capture data for Triage clients because we don't have a shared data system for the Triage Program. Ms. Schafer stated that the data issue is a problem.

Page 31 of the Mental Health Action Plan was discussed. There was a question regarding #6 Advocate for capital funding and infrastructure in the recommendations for Collaboration and Coordination section. Ms. Schafer explained that some of the providers grant funds are usually just for services, but they have buildings they need to maintain. This is one of the things that came up in the small groups that the providers need to include funding to maintain their buildings in their grant requests.

There was a question regarding what the purpose of the work groups would be. Ms. Schafer stated that the concept was to look at small, targeted time limited topics. Then the small group would report at the next BHCC meeting and discuss how the issue needs to be addressed and take action on the issue. Ms. Shultz stated that one of the things that needs to be looked at in a small group is children and youth statistics. The lack of data on youth was one of the biggest barriers in a response to the intensive outpatient program. Ms. Schultz stated that we do have agencies, schools, governmental entities, providers where we can mine some data and be able to put it together in a way that would benefit the county and the Mental Health Action Plan.

Mr. Taylor stated that page 22 talks about the Siloed approach. For anyone that is reading this thoroughly they will see that we have we have a concern with the segmented siloed approach, but we don't have a recommendation that addresses it. We need to look at what would be an actionable recommendation to alleviate the resistance of some entities and their siloed approach.

Mr. Barr talked about page 73 of the document where is talks about psychiatric services and medication. He asked if there were any recommendations and Susan stated that the group didn't meet but that there will be recommendations added to the plan.

Ms. Schafer stated that one of things that is talked about in the document in the medication management and medical services section is workforce issues and reimbursement rates. A recommendation that was brought up on in one of the work groups was to advocate for Medicaid rates that cover the cost of care.

Mr. Barr asked if the county funds related to the mental health sales tax could be allocated for increased psychiatric services with the utilization of advanced practice nurses. Ms. Schafer stated something she has been looking at is to standardize types of incentives for attracting nurse practitioners or psychiatrists. Ms. Schafer stated we need to look at our needs to be able to fund these services.

Chairman McIntyre recommended everyone to get their suggestions to Ms. Schafer by January 7th and we will come back on the 14th to continue to address issues.

Ms. Schafer stated that if anyone has any questions about the Mental Health Action Plan to reach out to her and she is happy to answer any questions. She is also happy to discuss any suggestions that anyone has as well.

Ms. Hartman stated that there is a House bill that she feels we should advocate for. The House bill 4238 that would increase rates to be able to help address workforce crisis issues for mental health.

David Taylor gave an update on some items that United Way has been working on in the community. They have been working on youth behavioral health and how the

pandemic has affected youth behavioral health in our community. They have met with the public health department to discuss some of the ways to address some of the lingering effects for youth as a result of the pandemic. They also had discussions with Jim Leonard and Coleen Kannaday from Carle and their teams as well as staff from Olympia, Ridgeview and Lexington schools. After the first of the year United Way anticipates they are going to launch an effort to start addressing issues with the youth in our community. They have been working with the superintendents and the embedded counselors in the schools. Each school is identifying 10-15 students that need some interventions. Carle plans to have 1-2 additional counselors and therapists hired on staff and they have agreed to set aside some appointments for the identified students. Each week Carle is setting aside 8-10 appointments. Some of the appointments might be a group counseling setting. Some outcomes that they will be monitoring are disciplinary issues as well as attendance.

Mr. Jontry gave update from ROE. Over the course of this fall ROE has had a number of meetings with Superintendents for a variety of reasons. They met to discuss how they can help them meet the needs of the kids in their buildings and also discussed funding. Mr. Jontry stated that there are a number of kids that are still home bound due to mental health and social emotional issues.

Mr. Jontry spoke about setting up a Bridge Academy Program. This would help support students at risk of hospitalization. This would also help support students being discharged to facilitate transition back to their home school. This program would provide an educational therapeutic supports. There would be intentional case management and therapy supports offered throughout the school day. There would also be before and after school as needed depending upon each student and the family dynamic. This program will serve as an option on both ends of the continuum of services for adolescents as they transition back into their home districts from hospitalization and to also mitigate the potential for hospitalization down the road.

Mr. Jontry stated that they survey all the districts in his region and received 18 responses back. They identified that as many as 180 students' homebound would-be potential candidates for this program. There are 41 homebound students just for mental health reasons only. The Bridge Academy is a step above public or private school in terms of being a little more specialized but not to the level of the programming that is provided at Hammit. The kids that would be eligible for this program don't have to have an IEP. The Bridge Academy would be a 4-classroom setting with a maximum of 10 students per classroom. The minimum attendance time would be 30 days and there wouldn't be a maximum attendance time. The building that The Bridge Academy would be in would have a sensory calming room. The staff will be trauma informed and the program would be established under a trauma sensitive design which would incorporate research based social emotional practices. There would be therapy time during the day and incorporate outdoor time.

Mr. Jontry went over a timeline of what is needed to set up this school set in time for the next school. The funding needed for year one (January 2022-December 2022) would be just over 1,000,000,00 which includes the cost of establishing the school. The cost for year two would be about half the amount. Mr. Jontry stated that by year three they believe it could be self-sustaining due to their operations through a combination of fee for service back to the schools as well as state funding that would be available. There would be a surcharge for IEP students due to the extra surcharge for the additional supports that they will require. There currently is a \$250,000 grant application into the state that they are waiting to hear on. The grant would be for the first two years. The school would serve mostly Mclean County students and will be for students between the ages of 13-18 years old.

Mr. Jontry is going to send the link to the information that he provided to Ms. Cassy Taylor to send out to the BHCC members.

Trisha provided stated that there are update on FUSE and Triage in the BHCC written report. Triage has the quarterly data, and the FUSE date is cumulative from the start of the program through October. There is an update from the partnership with regional EMS for testing the NYU tool. There is a brief recap of the trauma informed initiative. Trisha stated that she has worked in partnership with Vanessa once she started and this week, they have received an expectance of a position for an individual who will lead the trauma informed and resilience-oriented initiative moving forward. This will be announced during the next large group scheduled in January.

Chairman McIntyre stated to please send revisions and suggestions to Ms. Schafer or to county administrative office by January 7th so it can be voted on during the next meeting on January 14, 2022

Mr. McIntyre indicated the next meeting is scheduled for Friday, January 14, 2022. This special meeting will start at 7:30a.m. He asked if there was any other business, hearing nothing he thanked everyone and adjourned the meeting at 9 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda Hartley

Amanda Hartley
BHCC OSSII, Recording Secretary