

Minutes of the Behavioral Health Coordinating Council

The Behavioral Health Coordinating Council Committee met on Friday, June 17, 2022, at 7:30 a.m. in Room 400 of the Government Center, 115 East Washington Street, Bloomington, IL.

Members Present: Elizabeth Robb; Ms. Sonja Reece, McLean County Board of Health; Mr. Joan Hartman, Center for Human Services Executive Director; Judge Rebecca Foley; Ms. Schafer, McLean County Board; Colleen O'Connor, NAMI Executive Director (Livingston, McLean County); Ms. Lisa Thompson, Project Oz Executive Director; Mr. David Taylor, Executive Director of United Way, Diane Schultz, The Baby Fold; Donna Boelen, City of Bloomington; Mr. Eric Thome, State Farm
Trisha Malott attended in place of Mark Jontry Regional Office of Education
Theresa Prosser attended in place of Colleen Kannaday, Carle BroMenn
Pam Reece attended in place of Mr. Kevin McCarthy, Town of Normal
Matt Mollenhauer attended in place of Mr. David Sharar Chestnut Health Systems CEO

Members Absent: Chairman John McIntyre; Colleen Kannaday, Carle BroMenn; Ms. Lynn Fulton, OSF St. Joseph Medical Center; Mr. Jeremy Hayes Bloomington Housing Authority Executive Director; Mr. Chris Workman PATH Executive Director, Brian Wipperman, Marcfirst; Ms. Lynn Fulton, OSF St. Joseph Medical Center; Kristin Adams, Country Financial, Mr. David Sharar Chestnut Health Systems CEO, Ms. Stephanie Barisch, Center for Youth and Family Solutions, Mr. Mark Jontry, Regional Office of Education; Mr. Kevin McCarthy, Town of Normal

Staff Present: Ms. Granger-Belcher, Behavioral Health Coordinating Council Supervisor; Ms. Cassy Taylor, County Administrator; Taylore Davis Behavioral Health Project Coordinator Amanda Hartley; Recording Secretary,

Others Present: Phylis VerSteegh, Catherine Metsker, Judy Buchanan, Shannon Garlock, Amy Hancock, Natasha Caudee, Cathleen Hays

Chairman McIntyre was not able to attend the meeting, so Ms. Cassy Taylor called the meeting to order at 7:30AM.

Ms. Taylor presented the minutes from the March 11, 2022, regular meeting and for the April 8, 2022, special meeting for approval

Motion by Reece/Taylor to approve minutes from March 11, 2022, regular meeting and for the April 8, 2022, special meeting for approval

Motion carried

Ms. Taylor introduced Cathleen Hays. Cathleen is a Project Coordinator with Illinois Recovery Corps serving Bloomington Normal. Ms. Hays has been working with McLean County ROSC on research into different peer recovery support service programs. ROSC wants to implement a recovery center for the substance use and mental health recovery communities for Bloomington Normal and McLean County. Ms. Hays is conducting a community wide survey on community interest and readiness to implement a recovery center. Ms. Hays had a handout with a QR code and a link for anyone interested in being part of the survey.

Ms. Taylor stated that several years ago the county became involved with a national campaign for data driven justice. We were chosen to be part of a collaborative because of our efforts here in McLean County. The national DDJ initiative through NACO is now completing a rebranding and part of that is to highlight a community portrait series. They are highlighting individuals who have championed cross systems collaboration and data sharing within our jurisdictions to respond to the needs of frequent utilizers of justice health and human services systems. On behalf of McLean County Ms. Susan Schafer was approached to complete one of the community portraits. Ms. Taylor stated that it was a great testament to the work that she has done on behalf of all of boards that she serves on and the advisory groups that she has been a part of. Ms. Schafer stated that it was unexpected because of some of the individuals they have chosen in the past. She is honored but humbled. She stated that it's not just a testament to her, but it is a testament to the individuals around the table because everyone has done a lot moving forward and improving things in McLean County. Ms. Schafer stated that this is national recognition not just for her but for the County. She appreciates everyone that has helped her along the way to become the champion for the county. She hopes to continue the work with DDJ.

Judge Foley gave an update on the interaction with BHCC and CJCC. She confirmed that the seat that was reserved for Ms. Malott when she was in Ms. Granger-Belcher's role, and it remains open for Ms. Granger-Belcher or her designee to attend the quarterly CJCC meetings. The next meeting is July 21, 2022, at 12pm and they meet in the Government Center Board Room. Judge Foley wants to look into the potential for BHCC's coordination with the JJC.

Judge Foley gave an update on what the Illinois Supreme Court has been doing relative to mental health efforts. In late 2019 and early 2020 the Illinois Supreme Court through the Administrative Office of Illinois Courts and with technical assistance from the National Center for State Courts formed an interdisciplinary multibranch group of leaders known as the Illinois Mental Health Task Force. In the last quarter of 2020, the Task Force sponsored a six-session titled Improving the Court and Community Response to Persons with Mental Illness and Co-occurring Disorders through Compassion and Hope. The series identified 9 challenge areas (Access to Care, Awareness and Education, Continuum of Care, Criminalization of Mental Illness, Crisis Response, Early Intervention,

Social Determinants, Funding, and a need to revise The Illinois Mental Health Code). In 2021 the AOIC hired Scott Block as Illinois's first statewide Behavioral Health Administrator. He is tasked with facilitating the task force response to five goals which are build a community-by-community approach supported by statewide leadership from all three branches of government, conduct a statewide maps or needs assessment to identify what is working and what gaps exist, assisting creating a vision for Illinois's Mental Health Continuum of Care, develop and implement a statewide strategic plan, and assure accountability through transparency and accessible reports on task force activities. The task force has developed the five multidisciplinary regional mapping committees and they are in line with the DHS regional boundaries. Over the past several months the regional mapping sessions were held, and they used the SIM or the sequential intercept mapping framework and discussed each regions resources and gaps as well as what needs to be accomplished to improve the court and community responses. The task force timeline indicates that they will complete the mapping report sometime in the month of June.

Judge Foley stated that there is an open application for funding. It is a one-year pilot project that seeks to improve outcomes for justice involved individuals by embedding a court liaison. Ms. Taylor stated that the county will be applying for the grant.

Ms. Taylor stated that Ron Lewis is our public defender, and he will be leading the Juvenile Justice Council. McLean County was noted in many of the task force work groups that Judge Foley mentioned for being a leader and ahead of the curve. Ms. Taylor stated that Scott Block has noted that a lot of the things that McLean County is doing are things that he is championing for the rest of the state. We will be looking to the National Coalition of Courts and the state efforts to develop partnerships between the justice system and behavioral health to help guide what we do in the future as far as our mental health action plan and the metrics that we will be collecting for those efforts.

Ms. Schultz gave an update on The Baby Fold. The Baby Fold is 120 years old this year providing services in McLean County. Ms. Schultz provided a handout which included the services that The Baby Fold provides.

Ms. Schultz spoke about their Community Schools' Program. She stated that there is outcome information in the handout that she provided. She stated that they have an embedded social worker at Fairview Elementary and Cedar Ridge (within the Unit 5 School District). It is a wonderful example of prevention work where they are trying to provide individualized mental health and physical supports to families that are in need and those needs are impacting the student's ability to come to school well-regulated emotionally as well as being able to benefit from academic instruction. They are trying to pick up the achievement gaps that these high needs kids may have and do it in collaboration with public school staff.

Ms. Schultz spoke about The Caregiver Connections Program. She stated that it is a newer program where The Baby Fold provides consultation services through a trauma informed lens to daycare providers to assist their staff to be able to work more effectively with kids that are in daycare and help them with kids that have higher needs than they

might typically see across the general population related to their emotional and behavioral stability. They operate the consultation services in Sangamon, Mclean, and Champaign County.

Ms. Schultz spoke about the Healthy Start Program. The Healthy Start Program is a good example of collaboration in the community benefited McLean County. The program was created 27 years ago with various stakeholders to bring the abuse and neglect prevention program to the county. Ms. Schultz stated that prevention funding is very unpredictable and unstable, but the good news is they have been doing the program for 27 years. 60% of the families in Healthy Start grew up as children in the homes as children in homes where they had contact and connection with DCFS. 95% of those families three years after they stop the service are still abuse and neglect free.

Ms. Schultz stated that from 2017 to 2021 The Baby Fold provided \$800,000 of charitable giving to operate these programs. The Baby Fold used that as part of their mission to be able to provide services that otherwise wouldn't exist in McLean County. She stated that this is not unique to The Baby Fold and that every nonprofit in this community is looking at charitable donations and other means of funding to keep their existing services in place. She feels that it is important to continue to invest in prevention.

Ms. Granger-Belcher stated that through collaboration with the county and several child serving agencies here at the table they submitted a Systems of Care Grant on April 18, 2022. She is hopeful that we are rewarded the grant. We will know if we receive the grant on August 1, 2022, with services expected to start on September 1, 2022. Ms. Granger-Belcher stated she would encourage that the next BHCC meeting is focused on child serving agencies in our community and mental health concerns focused on youth. If we don't get the grant, it doesn't mean that we won't go for it again. The grants are offered on a yearly basis. She encouraged everyone to come with ideas on how to move forward with initiatives that are highlighted in the Mental Health Action Plan and look at what else is out there to fill the gaps.

Ms. Hartman gave an update on Center for Human Services. They are in partnership with Heartland Community College around the Recovery Support Training Program and MCCHS will be the learning lab for that program. They will have a program manager who will guide the students through their internships no matter where their internships are. The program manager will help them create their care plans and self-care plans. They will also help them process things that come up that might be difficult to deal with as new people in the field especially people with lived experience. The program manager will also be working with other agencies to provide locations for the students to go to. Ms. Hartman is an instructor for the program as well. She stated that there are 20 students enrolled in the program this fall. She will be calling on other organizations to host interns and they will provide support for the interns and for the supervisors who support the students as well.

Chairman McIntyre invited the individuals that spoke at the County Board Meeting who expressed their interests and comments on the Mental Health Action Plan. Chairman

McIntyre felt that it would be beneficial for a discussion with the BHCC group regarding their comments on the Mental Health Action Plan.

Ms. Taylor introduced Mr. Zachary Gittrich. He is a member of the Illinois Research Collective as well as the statewide CESSA coalition. CESSA stands for Community Emergency Services in Support Act also known as the Stephon Watts Act. It was signed into law by Governor Pritzker in August 2021. It goes into effect January 2023. The impetus for CESSA started back in 2012 when a 15-year-old black autistic child named Stephon Watts was killed by police when he was having a mental health crisis. Mr. Gittrich stated that in Illinois ten percent of 911 calls are for mental behavior developmental crisis. Typically, 911 can only dispatch police officers which often times makes the situations worse. He stated that law enforcement skills are rarely needed as people with mental illness are less likely to be violent than people without such a diagnosis. In McLean County from 2018 to August 2021 10,733 emergency calls for service were made for mental health emergencies. CESSA creates emergency responders for nonviolent non-criminal mental behavior and developmental crisis. CESSA is based on the CAHOOTS model that operates in Eugene Oregon and dispatches teams of medics and Crisis workers. The mobile crisis teams respond without police and attempt to resolve the crisis and or transport the person to an appropriate medical provider. Mr. Gittrich stated that it will save states and local dollars by supporting people in the community rather than emergency rooms and jails. Mr. Gittrich talked about the difference between a Co responder model and an Alt responder model. A Co responder model is a crisis team responds with police and an Alt responder model is a crisis team responds without police. The philosophy of why CESSA supports Alt Responders is that mental behavior developmental crisis is still stigmatized and criminalized, and these crises require a public health response not a police response. Alt responders remove the police apparatus from these crisis's and enters the healthcare apparatus. The first person that is on the scene is a healthcare professional and they have authority over the scene. CESSA is going to be run by Emergency Response Equity Committees and each EMS region is going to get its own equity committee. They are going to provide the guidance to prioritize calls for assistance and setting the standards for appropriate response times. They are also going to set appropriate training requirements and staffing minimums as well as how long the Alt Responders have to respond and if they can't make it in the set time period then police will be sent to the scene. Mr. Gittrich stated that Mclean County is already really well set up because we have a mobile response team.

Mr. Gittrich also spoke about CESSA and the Deflection Act. The Deflection Act is a community law enforcement partnership for deflection and substance use disorder treatment act. The Safety Act updated it and it allows for collaborative deflection programs for substance use treatments and other services as an alternative to judicial criminal justice involvement. CESSA pertains explicitly to non-criminal emergencies in which law enforce involvement is prohibited. The Deflection Act explicitly pertains to law enforcement involvement in criminal situations. If it is a violent situation or if there is some type of crime being committed a Co Responder will be sent to the scene. If it is nonviolent

or noncriminal then it is considered a CESSA call. The Deflection Act and CESSA do not conflict. They complement each other. Mr. Gittrich stated that what will likely happen is that the mobile crisis that we have will respond to both and they will co respond for the Deflection Act and they will alt respond for the CESSA related calls. He stated that he is part of the Statewide Coalition, and they did work to get the bill passed and now they are working to get it implemented.

Ms. Schafer asked Mr. Gittrich who is in the research collaborative, how it came about and what expertise do the individuals have.

Mr. Gittrich stated that the Central Illinois Collective is a group of people in central Illinois, and they got started in August. They mainly focus on transparency and accountability. They help people fill out FOIA's, help people get police records, file police complaints. They also lobby for bills for legislation that they think is in the interest of the working. CESSA is one of the things that they directly lobbied on. He stated that they are part of the statewide CESSA coalition, and their experience is based on their relationship with the statewide coalition. The statewide coalition is led by Access Living which is a disability rights organization and Advance Your Leadership Power which is a group of disabled activists that have been advocating for themselves and policies that benefit them.

Ms. Taylor introduced Ms. Elizabeth Johnston. Ms. Johnston is a McLean County Board Member, and she is also a Clinical Social Worker in the community. She also teaches an advanced practice class at ISU. She has spent a good amount of time reading through the Mental Health Action Plan. She doesn't feel like it adequately describing what is actually accomplished. Ms. Johnston stated as elected officials, our role in this Action plan is to be accountable to taxpayers with how we are utilizing funds entrusted to us much the same way you are accountable to your own board of directors and stakeholders. I know each and every one of you sitting at this table works within an organization that operates based on goals, metrics, service delivery and outcome measures. The Mental Health Action Plan is something that the taxpayers would find and try to read to see what we are doing, and she wants the Mental Health Action Plan to be accountable to the taxpayers. Ms. Johnston stated that what she has heard the last couple of months and one of the biggest concerns that she has heard when she has talked with people in the community is that there aren't smart goals in the plan. She stated it doesn't mean that they don't exist, but that they aren't documented, and this is a big concern because we want to be able to show the community that understand the shortfalls and we are creating a plan for how to address them. This is something she feels should be worked on for the next update of the Mental Health Action Plan.

Ms. Johnston stated Triage continues to be the most underutilized service in our area and what is concerning to her is that there are no plans to expand utilization in the Mental Health Action Plan. In the meantime, boots-on-the-ground providers are struggling because their caseloads are full, organizations cannot find providers to offer relief, and people are struggling because they cannot find services. Ms. Johnston stated that she very much appreciated Ms. Reece's request in a previous meeting to include private practitioners in the discussion as they are often feeling the pinch with resource limitations. She stated that in her busiest days at work, she will see 15 patients

in a day with an average of 50-60 patients a week. She provides short term counseling- a targeted behavioral management protocol and will see 650-700 patients a year. Ms. Johnston stated that as an embedded Behavior Health Provider she is meant to have same day/next day openings but since the pandemic that is not the case most of the time. She stated as of today, she is scheduling patients almost 3 weeks between visits for follow-ups, and when she makes referrals for long term counseling- patients are lucky to find someone taking patients and often have 2-4 month waits. Psychiatry is even harder, often with 6-9 month wait for specialty care.

Ms. Johnston stated that she is concerned about disjointed oversight of services The outlined organizational structure on page 12 of the plan reflects a persistent, institutionalized, siloed approach between the BHCC, MHAB, 377, CHIP, Jail MH, even as this very group is designed to reduce the impediments of siloes. One of the specific action steps for Jail MH is to “retain local control” leading her to ask where is the oversight now. As far as she has seen, the overview of mental health services in the jail goes no further than the doors of the jail complex itself. In Appendix J- it cites a challenge area as criminalizing mental illness where court/jails/prisons have become de facto re-institutionalization and speaks to it again on p. 12- the potential we could have in bringing systemic changes to behavioral health in our community but we cannot do that without collaboration or care behind those walls. She stated from a behaviorist standpoint, she is uncomfortable with the language in the Sequential Intercept Model that talks about what can or should be done, instead of what is being done. This model is a perfect place to write smart goals around because the intentions are laid out here in behavioral terms.

Ms. Johnston stated that as a county, we are experienced in writing grants, very aware that when applying for grant funds, we must incorporate goals, metrics, service delivery and outcome achievements to be awarded money. She believes that we shouldn't expect any less for our residents as their financial investment is fundamental to making this Action Plan a success. Earlier this year, Mr. McCarthy requested a budget outline that he could take back to our funding partner to demonstrate financial accountability. She stated that she is here to request that the vision for re-writing this living document begin now and include the information we receive from Tri-West to include specific details and action steps to achieve:

- a pipeline for attracting/retaining psychiatric providers to our community (ISU scholarships, placement partnerships, loan forgiveness, subsidies)
- an adolescent inpatient care unit (either building a program or attracting a provider)
 - better utilization of Triage center (expand our footprint in the community and work toward population health)
 - a trauma informed program that advocates for policy changes that will act as trauma-prevention (ACEs are more than just abuse, multiple ACEs stem from the instability and stress that comes with poverty).

Ms. Johnston stated that McLean County, with the help of this committee, has taken powerful steps to initiate a response for a growing need not just locally but

around the country. Over the last seven years we have established many of the pieces necessary (including a funding source) to implement a successful plan and truly address many pressing needs in our community. She is eternally grateful to our municipal partners for their investment.

Ms. Johnston stated that ultimately, she does not see the county's, or this group's, fundamental role in this process as a service provider but as an "architect" of sorts for the future development of Mental Health services. She hopes that the final report from Tri-West will live up to Mr. Sieger-Walls' expectations that the recommendations will paint a clearer path forward, because with better information we can make better choices. Ms. Johnston stated she values the role of the BHCC for incorporating information from each agency and facilitating partnerships to enhance and expand services.

Ms. Boelen stated that she is also an elected official and both the city, and the town are the funders. She stated that she appreciated Ms. Johnston comments through her expertise as a provider, but she believes that it is elected representatives on this board responsibility to go out and share the information. She stated that is why they are there. She stated that we shouldn't expect all the providers to share their transparency.

Ms. Schultz stated Ms. Schaefer, herself, and other providers have talked about how we have struggled on the children and youth side and how we can get better data. She stated that we don't have a good way set up for children and youth yet to determine whether data is unduplicated clients in different services at different agencies or family's/ clients that are getting multiple services. She stated that if we can get better data for children and youth it can determine how we invest resources knowing that we have to prioritize we will make better decisions.

Ms. Granger-Belcher stated that in the Mental Health Action Plan the attempts at collecting data and metrics may seem very general and broad. This first step and we have to start somewhere. She stated that this is not meant to suggest that what is in the plan now is the ultimate goal, but it is the starting point. The idea of what we are looking at is yearly updates. She stated that creating a system wide template that can begin to collect data is the beginning steps to begin to understand how we get more meaningful or deeper level metrics.

Ms. Malott stated that over the years as we looked at other jurisdictions and what they were doing in regard to data collection and data sharing with regard to mental health and at times the intersection with the justice system the biggest challenge for Illinois jurisdictions is the Illinois Mental Health statute which is much more restrictive than HIPAA. There are a number of states and jurisdictions that have been able to share mental health data and be able to look at whether individuals are duplicated or unduplicated across agencies and systems much more easily than we can in Illinois. She stated that there are challenges that are unique to our state that makes some data sharing a challenge.

Ms. Reece wanted to follow up on Ms. Boelen's comment regarding the role of elected officials. She feels it may be useful at a future meeting to have a topic on how are we communicating the data right now and what are better practices.

Ms. Taylor stated that we have an intergovernmental agreement with the city and the town. Prior to Ms. Taylor's time in her role the city and the town were very forward thinking and innovative in understanding the needs of this community and appreciating the fact that we needed extra effort in the realm of mental health. She also stated that the efforts of this group and the Mental Health Action Plan if you look at a venn diagram there is an intersection between Behavioral Health Coordinating Council efforts in the Mental Health Action Plan and the funding sources through our shared sales tax, but they are not synonymous. There are a lot of things that the intergovernmental agreement supports that do not touch the efforts of this group and also this group understands that taxpayer dollars are the funding last resort. We do look at grants and fund-raising efforts as well.

Ms. Schafer stated that one of the things that she has been working on with DDJ members is the data driven part of this. She stated that she has been very active and is part of the aegis groups. She stated that Covid has slowed down some of the efforts that would have doing for the last couple of years. Ms. Schafer stated that during the Board meeting last month she made a comment that not one board member contacted her in the last 18 months of the Mental Health Action Plan update and to date not one board member has contacted her for any information to learn about anything in the action plan. Ms. Boelen is the only one that has contacted her to ask questions.

Ms. Taylor introduced Ms. Sally Pancrazio. Ms. Pancrazio worked for 18 years for the State Board of Education as the chief of research examining the condition of Illinois Education. She also worked at the University in the area of teacher education and retired as the Dean there. Ms. Pancrazio stated that that she appreciated the opportunity to review the Mental Health Action Plan. It is very important that we have an overall index of mental wellbeing here in McLean County. She believes that we need to assess the current status of the mental wellbeing of the 172,000 residents in McLean County. The website of the National Institutes of Mental Health identifies a plethora of various needs assessments that could offer or suggest reliable assessments for ascertaining the overall condition of mental health within the county. She stated that the assessment would also include the incidence of problems and disorders.

Ms. Pancrazio stated that she is impressed with the range of work that is already going on in the school-based programs. She feels there should be more emphasis on articulating the outcomes related to the school-based programs. Ms. Pancrazio is concerned that only 100,000 was allocated to the Embedded School program. She strongly urges that amount be raised and stated that it is money well spent.

Ms. Pancrazio stated that after the Mental Health Action Plan was approved, the *Pantagraph* published an article announcing that the Regional Office of Education was establishing a school, Bridge Academy, to serve 40 youth transitioning into or out of

hospitalization for mental health issues. Since the Bridge Academy is a new initiative to serve special-needs youth, it merits being treated as an experiment. The educational input and the therapeutic inputs should be well articulated. She stated that the outcomes for the program should also be articulated before the program begins that way it can be better evaluated and replicated so that it can be a model elsewhere.

Ms. Pancrazio stated that the Mental Health Action Plan recommended that school staff and teachers be trained in the program Mental Health First Aid as a training module. She stated that more information about the training should be out there for everyone. She feels that the outcomes associated with the program need to be examined. She recalls hearing at the McLean County board meeting that more than 2,000 teachers have been trained thus far. How is it working, who has the responsibility to oversee the results of such training, how are they taking the training and linking it to the social emotional standards in curriculum and instruction. Ms. Pancrazio stated that since ISU is the largest producer of teachers in Illinois, she feels linkages should be made with ISU's Teacher and Education Program and faculty regarding the training being a part of the Teacher and Education Program.

Ms. Malott commented on the Embedded Schools and the funding that comes through the Board of Health. She stated that there are mechanisms in place that allow for the contracted agency to bill for a lot of the service. The funding allows for what is not covered in billable by insurance. There are also schools that are funding their own so the schools can bill for a number of the services. There is a push and right now it is pending with CMS at a federal level to be able to change what schools can bill to Medicaid for services that are provided within the school for clinicians which would expand the type of recovery and what services can be offered. Part of the transition from Board of Health Funding directly to The Center for Human Services to the Regional Office is to begin to look at bigger data and across all systems. There are identified outcomes and objectives in partnership with CHS and what they are looking at. Ms. Malott stated that they just took over as the contract holder in January and part of what they will begin to do is look at that the bigger data and across all systems. There are identified outcomes and objectives in partnership with CHS and what they are looking at. They will begin looking at if there are differences in outcomes when it's contracted with CHS or when the district hires themselves.

Ms. Malott stated that the Bridge Academy has identified outcomes and objectives with specific goals, and they have been identified in each of their applications for funding. She stated that those are things that they will be reporting on after the school opens.

Ms. Reece stated that as a representative for the Board of Health that she just wanted to remind everyone that we have property tax money that comes to the Department of Public Health and 1.4 million is being spent directly on services in this area. She stated

that it doesn't necessarily come before this group, but it does come before the Board of Health, and we fund counselors in some public schools across the county. She said that Amy Hancock sometimes comes to the meetings and Amy should be involved in a report to the BHCC group next time or at another future meeting. Ms. Granger-Belcher stated that Septembers meeting will be following up on our systems of care outcome and will be focused on youth and child serving services and should it be recommended that Amy have an invitation to sit and discuss the Board of Health efforts to support some of those that it would be welcomed.

Ms. Schafer stated that she is on the Board of Health, and they had a policy and funding meeting and they discussed funding for things like the Embedded Schools. Ms. Schafer stated that the Mental Health First Aid is a collaborative with many others, and she isn't sure what metrics they measures that they track.

Ms. Taylor introduced Doug Lamb. Mr. Lamb stated that he is a Clinical Psychologist, and he has been for 35 years. He works in the Psychology Department at Illinois State University and was the Director of Counseling Services. Mr. Lamb feels that a group or committee should be established to deal with mental health outcome measures. The group would require mental health agencies to develop meaningful outcome measures that address agency goals, provide consultation to agencies as to developing and implementing appropriate measures that are specific to their agency. He also talked about tying funding to reward agency efforts to develop, implement, and report agency outcomes.

Mr. Lamb stated that the Mental Health Action Plan should include a description of the five categories of mental health services provided in McLean County. He feels that including descriptions would orient and inform the reader as well as make the plan more understandable and meaningful. Having mental health agencies describe categories of mental health services that they are providing would assist the Board and the Behavioral Health Coordinating Council the opportunity to prioritize the delivery of mental health services as the mental health needs of the community change.

Ms. Taylor introduced Xavier Jackson. Mr. Jackson is an RN and is currently working at the Fox Center in Dwight. He previously worked in the acute psychosis ward at Behavior Hospital of Bellaire in Houston as a charge nurse for three years. He also has three years of experience as a 911 operator and police dispatcher in Peoria.

Mr. Jackson stated that the virus of March 2020 changed everything. It changed everyone's routine, schedule, and lives and people don't do well with that kind of change. He stated that after working in Psychiatry for a long period of time that most people that are in an emotional crisis are totally unaware of the fact that they are in an emotional crisis. Mr. Jackson stated that since March 2020 he has seen a lot more

people in an emotional crisis. He sees it in his workplace and especially in his profession. There are a lot are in the midst of some type of crisis that melt down randomly and everyone that is within 10 years from retirement age are walking away from their jobs. He sees that people are checked out not only in this community but other communities as well. Mr. Jackson stated that it would be beneficial to have some type of large promotional campaign for people come out and say what they need instead trying to speculate as to what they need. It should be some type of big outreach promotion that doesn't sound like mental health because people don't want to be stigmatized by that and doesn't sound like government because nobody trusts the government. He feels it would be a good way to get more input.

Mr. Jackson spoke about House Bill 5319 (HB5319) that authorized and funded four test cities to deploy behavioral health personnel in the field with law enforcement. He stated that this is needed and that it is time to move towards integrating behavioral health services with law enforcement and 911 is now.

Mr. Gittrich stated that the CESSA coalition worked with Jehan Gordon-Booth on House Bill 5319. He clarified that it is not a first responder bill it is a follow up responder bill. It is only for survivors or witnesses of crimes that may have mental or behavioral health. He stated that they got it moved from a co responder model to an alt responder model.

Ms. Granger- Belcher thanked everyone for taking the time to come are share their recommendations, concerns, and considerations regarding the Mental Health Action Plan. She stated that every year they will be looking at the recommendation sections of the Mental Health Action Plan and moving them forward. She encouraged them to come back in December to hear how what they shared today might be influencing what will be done next year.

Ms. Granger- Belcher stated that member Hartman proposed having a discussion on staff recruitment. Ms. Hartman stated that Chris Workman started her thinking on the lines of when they were recruiting for the 988 line and the number of applicants that they tried to get from outside our area. She proposed putting together a subcommittee of this group to start looking at how to get together and recruit people to our community to fill the positions that we have because otherwise all we are doing is shuffling our deck.

Ms. Schafer thinks that it is a great idea, and it falls in line with some of the goals in the Mental Health Action Plan.

Ms. Prosser also feels that it is a good idea. She stated that she was happy to be at the meeting today. She stated that we have to figure out a way to draw more providers (physicians, nurses, therapists of any level) and not just pilfer from each other.

Ms. Granger-Belcher stated that she is going to start working on a work group that is focused on staff recruitment and retention. She stated that she will also identify additional partners that may not be at the table that would be important members to join the group for the discussion.

Ms. Granger stated everyone should have received a packet. She highlighted some things from the packet. She stated that the overall statistics of FUSE continues to indicate reduction in shelter utilization, ED utilization, and decreased justice contacts. She stated that one of the new things she wanted to point out is how we are identifying and differentiating our potential participants. We are now looking at active and outreach potentials and getting a better idea of where they stand in the process of getting into our program and what the numbers really look like. This will help us look at what the barriers are in getting into the FUSE program. We are going to look at what we may modify or expand withing FUSE to be able to reach a wider number of individuals.

Ms. Granger-Belcher gave an update on Triage. April marks the highest number of contacts that Triage has seen since opening day. The numbers have continued to increase over the last three months. Ms. Granger-Belcher stated that Kevin McCall and his staff have been very involved in outreach to different agencies, businesses, and providers. She stated that they have been looking at ways to directly collaborate with the law and justice side of McLean County Government.

Ms. Granger-Belcher stated that as far as credentialing Molina is our one partner and we are in the process of credentialed with Blue Cross Blue Shield and close with Meridian as well. FUSE and Triage are very near in the process of being able to bill for services that they are already providing which will help in the expansion of the programs.

Ms. Granger-Belcher spoke about the Behavioral Health Forum. This year's forum will be held in person at the Marriot Hotel and Conference Center on October 4, 2022. Planning has already begun and many of the agencies at the table are represented at the planning committee. Right now, we are beginning to focus on the resource fair and getting agencies to sign up for it and sponsorship as well. If your organization or your connections to other organizations would like to support these efforts, it would be much appreciated.

Ms. Davis gave an update on RISE McLean County. RISE McLean County still has a lot of momentum and making a lot of progress this year. By the end of the month, they will have their first PowerPoint training on ACES trauma and resilience. The trauma and resilience infographic will be done by the end of this month. She stated that RISE McLean County was highlighted in the Peace for Tarpon in Florida. Ms. Davis spoke at their forum meeting and share the good things that McLean County is doing. Ms. Davis also spoke at the Prevent Child Abuse Illinois conference.

Ms. Granger-Belcher gave an update on the TriWest crisis evaluation. She stated that they are in data collection so if you are one of the agencies that they still need data please work with them on getting them the information that they need so they can move forward.

Ms. Granger-Belcher stated that the SOC grant was submitted on Monday April 18, 2022. The reward date is August 1st with an expected start date of September 30th. She stated that at the September meeting there will be a detailed conversation focused on the SOC grant and if we have been rewarded the grant and if not, what are our next plans in attempting it second time. There will be a special topic on youth and child serving services in McLean County.

Ms. Taylor announced that Ms. Granger-Belcher's last day is July 15, 2022, so this will be her last BHCC meeting. Ms. Taylor thanked Ms. Granger-Belcher for everything she has done in her short time.

Ms. Taylor indicated the next meeting is scheduled for Friday, September 9, 2022. He asked if there was any other business, hearing nothing he thanked everyone and adjourned the meeting at 9:40am

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda Hartley

Amanda Hartley
BHCC OSSII, Recording Secretary