

**Region 6 Behavioral Healthcare  
Behavioral Health Advisory Committee (BHAC)  
Meeting Minutes  
October 3, 2018**

**BHAC Members Present:**

Dean Loftus, Acting Chair  
Janet McCartney  
John Sheehan  
Jeff Leach  
Shawn Thallas  
Heather Post

**BHAC Members Absent:**

Michele Missel  
Shawn Shanahan  
Ken Timmerman

**Region 6 Staff Present:**

Patti Jurjevich  
Taren Petersen

The meeting was called to order at 9:02am by Dean Loftus, Acting Chair.

**Approval of Minutes of September 5, 2018 Meeting**

A motion was made by John Sheehan; seconded by Jeff Leach to approve the minutes of the September 5, 2018 Meeting. Motion carried unanimously upon voice vote.

**Approval of Agenda**

A motion was made by Jeff Leach; seconded by John Sheehan to approve the agenda. Motion passed unanimously upon voice vote.

**Administrator's Report**

Patti Jurjevich reported on BHAC membership and current vacancies. Membership of the Committee will change based on recommended revisions to the bylaws.

**Spotlight on Services: Mobile Crisis Response and Co-Responder Pilot Project**

Lindsay Kroll, Lutheran Family Services (LFS), provided an overview of Mobile Crisis Response. She stated that the service provided by LFS is available to all law enforcement agencies in Douglas, Dodge, and Washington Counties. Heartland Family Service provides Crisis Response in Sarpy and Cass Counties. The intent of the service is to respond to behavioral health crisis situations and potentially divert individuals from hospitals, eliminate the need for an

emergency protective custody, and connect with community resources. The response time to arrive at the scene averages 20 minutes. The behavioral health professional that responds to the situation is available to de-escalate the situation, provide safety planning and connections to community sources. Post crisis services of therapy, medication management, and emergency community support can be accessed within 24-48 hours after the crisis and are available in all counties for 90 days. All of these activities are funded by Region 6. The age range for persons served is 3 to 89 years. In addition to responding to law enforcement calls, Mobile Crisis Response will also respond to Nebraska Family Helpline and homeless shelter calls for assistance. There are two people on call at all times for the three counties.

Lindsay reported that LFS applied for grant funds to develop a co-responder model for crisis response. Both Kim Foundation and Behavioral Health Support Foundation have provided funding for the project. There are now behavioral health professionals working in the Omaha Police Department's southwest and northwest precincts, and Fremont. These positions are embedded in the police departments and have access to the police radio. The positions respond along with law enforcement to the scene which removes the wait time for activating crisis response. Lindsay said it appears that Crisis Response is able to reach situations that they may not have before and much more quickly. The pilot project Crisis Response staff are also available to do proactive outreach in response to 911 callers. Crisis Response staff for the co-responder project is currently on one shift. More work is needed to determine the best way to staff the co-responder project.

#### **Review of Keystone Project**

Lorie Thomas reported that this pilot project came out of the Governor's desire to reduce emergency protective custody episodes. After discussion with stakeholders, it was decided to provide intensive support/case management with a small number of people that have frequently been served in the emergency behavioral health system. This voluntary program provides regular meetings with individuals to connect them with services, supports, and housing. The goal is reduce contact with law enforcement and the behavioral health system. It is hoped to extend time between hospitalizations for these individuals.

#### **Review of Revisions to BHAC Bylaws**

Dean Loftus reviewed proposed changes to the BHAC bylaws. The bylaws will come back to the next meeting for final review and a recommendation for approval to the Governing Board.

#### **Update on Peer Support Services**

Taren Petersen said she wanted to alert the Committee members about changes to the peer support definition. She stated that the Division of Behavioral Health (DBH) requires service providers to bill Medicaid for peer support. Region 6 has been paying peer support based upon an expense reimbursement basis. Taren said it's been a challenge for providers to get on the managed care organizations' panels and the reimbursement rate does not cover costs. The Division of Behavioral Health released a draft service definition that significantly changes the peer support service. Once the DBH service definition is finalized, a cost model will be prepared

and the service will move to a fee-for-service arrangement. It is expected that this reimbursement change will occur in January 2019.

John Sheehan expressed concern that this extremely helpful service will be negatively impacted by the changes.

**Status Reports for the Period Ending August 31, 2018**

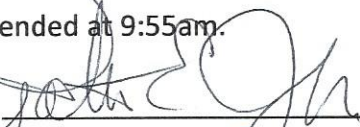
Taren Petersen reviewed the status reports. She reported that staff are reviewing the utilization and availability of intensive care/special care beds in acute care units.

**Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

The meeting ended at 9:55am.

Prepared by:



Approved by:

