



Behavioral Health Advisory Committee Meeting
Meeting Minutes
February 2, 2022

Advisory Members Present:

Jeff Leach
Chris Kelly
Medjine Desgraves
John Sheehan
Rob Hillabrand

Advisory Members Absent:

Michele Missel
Happy Aldana
Michealle Vega-Hernandez

Region 6 Staff Present

Patti Jurjevich
Taren Petersen
Lorie Thomas
Crystal Fuller
Melissa Schaefer
Miles Glasgow

Recorder:

Bev Jackson

1. Welcome and Introduction of New Members

Jeff Leach, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:10AM. Jeff welcomed new member Medjine Desgraves and asked her to share a little bit about herself.

2. Roll Call

Roll call of the members determined there was a quorum.

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes from December 1, 2021 BHAC Meeting

Rob Hillabrand made a motion to approve the December 1, 2021 meeting minutes. John Sheehan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously upon voice vote.

4. Approval of Agenda

John made a motion to approve the February 2, 2022 agenda. Chris Kelly seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously upon voice vote.

5. Administrator's Report – Patti Jurjevich

Patti Jurjevich wanted to share some BHAC membership updates, one of them being that Janet McCartney has resigned from the Cass County Board and Regional Governing Board (RGB), and so her BHAC term won't be renewed. There is not a RGB member for the BHAC as of yet. John Sheehan has agreed to another term on the BHAC. Michelle Missel is still ill, and Patti passed a get-well card for her that everyone can sign.

Patti shared the legislature is in session, and this is year 2 of the biennium. One of the bills is LB 762, which is state intent regarding appropriations to the Department of Health and Human Services for behavioral health services and whether there will be an increase in Medicaid reimbursement.

There are ongoing conversations on reinvesting these extra dollars on increasing the rates, and on recruiting and retaining the workforce. The state also has extra American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, and there are also discussions on how these dollars will be spent. Beacon Treatment Centers are in line to receive a significant amount for their workforce. There were no further questions or comments.

6. Nurturing Healthy Behaviors – Melissa Schaefer

a. Review of Funding and Budget Narrative

A printout of this information was included in everyone's packets for review. Melissa Schaefer gave a PowerPoint presentation of the grant. It supports the KidSquad program and is in collaboration with several different agencies. The Region 6 role is administration of the grant. KidSquad consists of 4 primary services:

- Mental Health Consultation
- Early Childhood Education Consultation
- Training
- Quality Grant

Monroe Meyer tracks all of the data. Patti asked if they track expulsions and Melissa answered that yes, they do. Rob then asked if this is just for childcare centers, Melissa answered yes. Medjine asked how a parent becomes aware of the programs, with Melissa answering that it is generally a referral from the childcare teacher. Medjine Desgraves asked if a parent has been referred, may they refuse to participate and Melissa answered that it is strictly voluntary. There were no further questions or comments.

b. BHAC Recommendation to the Regional Governing Board

Rob made a motion to recommend to the Regional Governing Board, with a second by John. The motion passed unanimously via voice vote.

7. Update on 988 Planning – Taren Petersen

A printout of this information was included in everyone's packets for review. Taren Petersen proceeded to give an update. The Division of Behavioral Health Regions, network providers and community stakeholders are working to implement Nebraska's 988 plan by July 1, 2022. A successful plan for transitioning the Nebraska Suicide Prevention Lifeline (800-273-TALK) to a 988-crisis line will ensure a timely response for Nebraskan's experiencing a mental health crisis and save lives. DBH is leading the 988-planning process by using a systems approach. Taren stated that if anyone is interested in being a part of this planning workgroup, to please contact the email on the flyer. Medjine asked if participating in the workgroup is via your organization or personal and Taren answered that it may be either, you may represent yourself or your agency. There were no further questions or comments.

8. Update on Lincoln Regional Center (LRC) Bed Allocation Plan – Lorie Thomas

Lorie Thomas gave an update on the ongoing situation at the Lincoln Regional Center. There are ongoing conversations in regard to bed allocation. Previously, of the 90 beds available statewide, Region 6 was allocated 30 of those. Now, the plan is for Region 6 to only receive 12 of them. LRC is licensed for 200 beds, they have 185 physical beds, with staff for 140. John asked why this is happening, with Lorie responding, good question, because when you look at the number of beds that Region 6 is consistently using, it is around 30, on average. At the

present time, Region 6 has 23 patients. Some of the reasons are that buildings have to be remodeled for the ligature restraints, the buildings are old, asbestos needs to be removed and buildings need to be remodeled, so some buildings will have to be shut down for remodeling for them to be brought back into use. Medjine commented is it COVID related also, because Covid is the new normal, and adjustments have to be made. Lorie replied yes, that is true, but there is still a shortage of staff when they are out with COVID. This is an ongoing conversation, with more updates to come. There were no further questions or comments.

9. Timeline for FY23 Budget – Taren Petersen

A printout of this information was included in everyone's packets for review. Taren highlighted for the committee members the timeline. Taren's plan is to submit a draft budget to the BHAC members at the March 2, 2022 meeting. On March 1 and April 1, budgets are due to the Division. We should expect our contract from the Division in June, and in late June, through July, we will be sending contracts to our providers. There were no questions or comments.

10. Update on Network Services – Taren Petersen and Crystal Fuller

The new, revised updates were included in the packets for everyone's review. Taren shared that these monthly reports were repetitious and the data was really kind of meaningless. It has been revamped to spotlight a network service each month, with a few exceptions. This month the spotlight is on Prevention, so Crystal Fuller gave an overview of Prevention Services.

Crystal stated that in the last 10 years, mental health and substance use has been added into the program focus. Key activities are

- Grant Management
 - Block Grant, Partnership for Success, Tobacco Free Nebraska
- System Coordination
 - Strategic Partnerships and Community Engagement
- Training
 - Mental Health First Aid, QPR, Prevention Training Funds, Suicide Prevention
- Special Incentives
 - Opioid Overdose, Mental Health Promotion, Lethal Means Safety, Stigma Reduction

Crystal shared that suicide continued to impact our communities in 2021. Areas of increased concern include: increased number of patients seen in emergency departments for suicide attempts-more medically impactful attempts, an increase in youth and young adult deaths, significant increase in the minority suicide deaths, especially in the Hispanic/ Latino Community. John asked if the LGBQ status is tracked, Crystal replied that no, it is not. Medjine then asked if the police department could track that as an identifier, with Rob replying that that is sometimes a difficult and/or odd question to ask, but if that information is shown to be beneficial, it can be asked. It was suggested that veteran status could be beneficial information to track also. Rob added that the Suicide Death Review Team does collect this data on the deceased, so it is probably better to collect this data then. There were no further comments or questions.

11. Status Reports for Period Ending December 31, 2021 – Taren Petersen and Miles Glasgow

Reports were included in the packets for everyone's review.

- a. Taren gave an update of the December 2021 Contract Status Reports, stating that the expected draw down is 50% but that the Mental Health drawdown is at 31.42% and Substance Use Disorder is at 25.37%. This is again, largely due to Medicaid Expansion. Other factors that have an impact on the rate of this lower drawdown in mental health is the delay in receiving the Charles Drew contract and the CHI Acute Unit is closed for renovations until March. In substance use, the Women's Set Aside (WSA) funds are not being drawn down at Heartland Family Service and Santa Monica House because they are able to draw Medicaid dollars. There will be a Recovery Support Specialist position created that will be able to utilize these dollars. Chris asked, with this Medicaid expansion, do we need to rethink what our focus is, and Taren replied that absolutely, we do, and discussions are being had internally to fund services not paid by Medicaid. John asked if Medicaid will expect the money back, and Taren answered no. Patti added that the budget has already been lowered because of these dollars and Medicaid Expansion. John asked if the unused dollars can be carried over and Taren replied yes, so far. Patti then stated that Region 6 is trying to use some of these unused dollars to increase the reimbursement rates paid to providers.
- b. Miles gave an update of the December 2021 Emergency Services Dashboard Report. He stated that EPCs are up 10% in Dodge and Sarpy counties, but Mobil Crisis Response is holding steady. Acute may have an increase in the number of available beds, more information on this will be coming in the near future. The terminology for "bed availability" is now changed to "staffed bed availability". The PES length of stay is increasing, but this is a typical trend. Patti asked, with the current workforce shortages, is there a problem with the Crisis Response Team not being able to respond, and Miles replied that, fortunately, this hasn't happened yet. There may be a longer response time, but they are able to respond.

There were no further comments or questions.

12. Public Comments

There were no public comments or questions.

13. Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made by John and seconded by Chris. The motion passed unanimously upon voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 10:20AM.

Prepared By: Beverly S Jackson Date: 3-2-22

Approved By: [Signature] Date: 3/2/22