



MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD

McLean County Health Department
200 West Front St., Bloomington, IL
Thursday, December 9, 2021

Minutes

The virtual meeting was called to order at 9:04 AM.

1. Roll Call: Chair Cory Tello, Chief Rick Bleichner, Dan Deneen, Faye Freeman-Smith, Trisha Malott, Chief Cory Matheny, Laurie Wollrab
Absent: Gaby Bontea, Mary Campbell, Martha Dittmer, Dr. Kristine Strauss
McLean County Health Department Staff: Amy Hancock, Behavioral Health Program Manager; Shannon Garlock, Office Support Specialist II
2. Appearance by Members of the Public: Sarah Mardi, WGLT News & Cade Hunter, The Pantagraph
3. Items for Action
 - A. Approve 6/17/2021 MHAB Meeting Minutes
Dan Deneen motioned to approve the minutes. Laurie Wollrab seconded.
Motion approved with a unanimous roll call vote.
4. Items for Discussion
 - Cory Tello, MHAB Chair, provided 2 handouts to the board members:
 - A) MHAB Discussion Guide – outlining focus areas (added to the packet on MCHD website)
 - B) MHAB Focus Area Updates – Outlining Purpose and Collaboratives (added to the packet on MCHD website)
 - A. Discuss the current needs, gaps, and priorities of the McLean County Behavioral health Service System, to share as part of the Board of Health Strategic Planning.
Utilizing the MHAB Discussion Guide handout.
 - a. Members went over the MHAB Discussion Guide handout.
 - b. Chief Cory Matheny provided the board members with data collection by the EMS office and is open to suggestions on how this board can utilize some of the data collected.
 - c. The board members had a discussion regarding the Re-entry Program. Some members discussed that people in the justice system will always pay for their crimes and the system sets people up for failure. A discussion regarding a need for a movement in legislation to change and the need to streamline and correct fragmentation. Some members discussed the need for a bond-free system for re-entry and post arrest process thru the justice system and trauma impacts are addressed for better outcomes. The need for rapid access to services once individuals are released with reduced waitlists needs to be a priority to reduce the potential of individuals falling between the cracks.
 - B. Discuss McLean County's Collaborative efforts related to need and gaps.

Utilizing the MHAB Focus Area Updates handout.

- a. Members went over the MHAB Focus Area of Community collaboratives handout.
- b. A discussion of resources available currently and adding: The McLean Regional Planning Committee, Housing Affordable Housing Supporting Committee, and Community Emergency Support Act & Safety Act to be added to resource list.
- c. Information regarding the School of Medicine by Chad Morris was passed around for the members to review Work and Well-Being: A guide for Addiction Professionals.
- d. The members discussed potential sources for workforce and supported the need for Trauma-Informed Care for businesses, including a discussion for the need for a paradigm shift for mental health and the need to reduce stigma of mental health treatment as a negative. The need for better marketing of behavioral health services and improving community awareness and perceptions is widely needed for the community with the focus on shifting terminology and language used.
- e. A discussion regarding “How do we build capacity of mental health and peer supports?”. Local agencies are hiring and obtaining staff with life-experiences. Research and agencies have supported and proven this idea of peer to hire model with some grants requiring life experienced support as a source of therapy in treatment. The board members discussed there is a need for clarity in defining the terminology of Peer Support vs Mentors.
- f. The final topic for conversation was for the need of combining coordination and more collaboration within the community of agencies and governmental entities is needed for a more unified voice. How to combine efforts amongst county behavioral health and health department with support from local agencies to create a more unified force including less confusing logistics and reducing duplicated efforts throughout the community. Some of the members would like to encourage a plan to look into the structure of behavioral health to provide better care to the community. Is it feasible to combine community efforts and consolidation of funding’s, messaging, personnel, and decision-making into a single structure for behavioral health without overlapping efforts and government logistics? If this is not realistic, what is the path for MHAB? How to define Public Health and where Public Health should be housed?

5. Other Business

6. Adjournment

Motion made to adjourn meeting: Dan Deneen

Seconded motion: Chief Rick Bleichner

Meeting adjourned at: 11:05 AM