



MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD
McLean County Health Department
Minutes
200 West Front Street, Room 322
Bloomington, IL 61701
Friday, February 7, 2020

I. Call to Order:

Meeting called to order at 9:04am

II. Roll Call:

Cory Tello, Diane Wolfe, Trisha Malott, Laurie Wollrab, Dan Deneen, Rick Bleichner, Sharon Fitzer, Mary Campbell, Gaby Bontea, Kristine Strauss

III. Staff Members:

Amy Hancock, Mandy McCambridge, Kevin McCall

IV. Absent:

Brian Mohr

V. Appearance by Members of the Public:

Faye Freeman-Smith. Faye will be joining the Mental Health Advisory Board in April

VI. Items for Information:

A. Introduce new Mental Health Advisory Board Members

Gaby Bontea talked about her background. Gaby is a case manager at The Salvation Army

Sharon Fitzer works at the Logan Correctional Center

Kristine Strauss is a forensics counselor and has her own practice

Mary Campbell is retired. She currently serves on the Heartland Community College Board.

Faye Freeman-Smith will be joining the Mental Health Advisory Board in April. Faye is the Director of Counseling Services at Heartland Community College. She also has her own counseling practice.

Current board members introduced themselves to the new board members and spoke about their backgrounds as well as their occupations.

B. Board of Health Behavioral Health Standing Committee

Amy stated that a new committee was formed called the Board of Health Behavioral Health Standing Committee. The Committee will have its first meeting on February 19th and its first focus area will be to look at the funding guidelines for CY21.

C. Calendar Year 2021 Funding Timeline

Cory stated that she is on the Board of Health and one of the things they have been discussing is tweaking the process of how we receive proposals that are allocated for Behavioral Health purposes. Last year we had a 3-member selection process where each selection committee received one or two proposals to review instead of all members reviewing the same proposals. There were some good things about the process and there were also some problems with the process. The Board of Health is going to have a standing committee to look at the process and try to find solutions to the problems with it. Cory stated that the Mental Health Advisory Board Members are welcome to attend the standing committee meetings but will not be voting members of the group. Cory stated that the members will get notification of the meetings. The first meeting is February 19th at 1:00pm. Amy stated that the first focus area for the standing committee will be the Funding Guidelines Calendar for CY21.

Amy provided the Funding Guidelines Calendar for CY21. She stated that her goal is to make sure things that are Behavioral Health related first come to the Mental Health Advisory Board before it goes to the Board of Health.

D. Educational article on Drug Policy

Cory spoke about the education article on Drug Policy. She spoke about a section in the article that explains how a legal but strictly regulated market is judged to yield the best reduction in harm and highest benefit to society. Cory stated that it would be nice to have evidence-based drug laws. Amy stated she is identifying focus areas and trying to stay up to date on the pros and cons of the legalization of marijuana regarding Behavioral Health. She stated that this will be a continued discussion. In the future, the need for funding and focus areas as a result of the legalization of cannabis could develop. Cory asked Diane asked if there

had been any changes in marijuana usage in schools since its legalization in January. Diane stated that there were no changes. Faye stated that she has seen an increase in cannabis usage overall. She feels that there needs to be more education and prevention on cannabis. Gaby stated that she sees her clients use it to self-medicate due to their anxiety. Rick talked about the medical data from the states where marijuana is legal. The data shows that there was an increase in emergency room visits due to the potency of THC in edible form. Kristina stated that we need to be deliberate on what research we are quoting. We need to look at what methodology was used to reach the results in the study as well as what area the study was conducted in. We need to make sure that we are looking at more than just the result pages of articles. There will be more discussion on this topic at future meetings.

E. McLean County Health Department Strategic Plan

Amy went over the Strategic Plan for the Health Department. She wanted to remind the members that the Mental Health Advisory Board is part of our Strategic Plan. Amy provided the Strategic Plan to the members as part of the packet.

VII. Items for Discussion

A. Embedded School and Community School Intervention Program for FY August 1, 2020 through July 31, 2021

The NOFO for Embedded School Program will be coming out in March. The agencies and school districts will both complete the application together. The letter of intent will be due by March 27th. It was suggested that the date be moved back because that is when the school districts are on spring break. Amy stated that she will move the date back.

Cory stated that we started the Embedded School Pilot Project in January 2017. It began in Olympia and Ridgeview School districts due to those communities having less access to services. We committed to a 3-year pilot. Towards the end of the pilot we evaluated the Embedded School Pilot Project. Dr. Adena Meyer from the Psychology Department at ISU is who conducted the evaluation. Dr. Adena Myer's findings were very positive, but she did give some recommendations. When we started this pilot, the main goals were to reduce stigma, increase access to care, improve children's functioning, and to get a greater coordination between the school personnel and the behavioral health agency personnel. Cory stated that after this pilot, we found ourselves agreeing to fund another year of services to some schools. Some of the schools we started with have found a way to pick some funding. District 87 ended up using title dollars to fund the program but using title dollars isn't sustainable. We

have one additional school we can provide funding for. We held off funding for one school because the board saw that the funding was disproportionately being allocated to Unit 5. We hope to get more proposals from outside Unit 5, but Unit 5 schools can still apply. Amy stated that we need to look at the schools or school districts requirements. We need to be mindful of the schools that we would be able to send the letter of intent to. Amy stated that the schools can do more than one letter of intent for an agency and they can both apply. Amy stated that the Mental Health Advisory Board and the Board of Health are to decide which agency will get the funding.

There were questions on the functions of the Community Schools program verses the Embedded School program. The Community Schools model is more of a wholistic approach whereas the Embedded Schools has a more one on one counseling model. Cory stated that we need to see how the community school therapist and the Embedded School therapists are meshing.

Dan stated that a paragraph should be added to the contract to state that schools are expected to work on sustainability. Amy stated that sustainability is going to be a discussion item on the Board of Health Behavioral Health Standing Committee.

Cory questioned who we wanted to give the greenlight to apply for this one existing proposal. Unit 5 globally has 33% low income, but it has schools that range upwards to 80% low income. Cedar Ridge has 74 % low income, Fox Creek 63% low income, Kingsley has 29%. District 87 globally has 58% low income, but some of their schools are in the higher range. Blueridge has 43% low income. Blueridge and District 87 are the top ones that meet the zip code and the risk factor. Trisha suggested that instead of us predetermining which schools should apply, maybe we should narrow the eligibility requirements. She added that we should narrow the language, so we aren't choosing. Amy stated that in the application, we should have them answer the following questions:

- “Who, in your school, is providing mental health needs?”
- “What services are they providing?” and
- “Who are they providing them to?”

Trisha stated that they should also document and prove why there is an additional need. Amy is going to look at the Illinois Report Card as well as the areas we are currently contracted with to define some of the thresholds to put into the NOFO for this contract.

B. MHAB By-Laws and any suggested edits/updates

Amy provided the Mental Health Advisory Board By-Laws. Amy has already gone through the by-laws and has looked at how our by-laws tie into the Illinois Statutes. The group reviewed the document with Amy's comments on the changes that should be made to go along with the Illinois Statutes. The group discussed the changes and made suggestions on what can be removed from the by-laws. Dan noted some subparts and subpoints that could be taken out of the by-laws. One suggestion was that there should be something in the by-laws regarding the removal of Board Members. Something also needs to be added with updates regarding majority quorum. Amy stated that there will be more opportunities to provide input. They will go to the Board of Health for their recommendations and their recommendations will come back to the Mental Health Advisory Board for approval.

VIII. Items for Action

A. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes -October 25, 2019

B. Approval of Ad Hoc Meeting Minutes – June 12, 2019

Dan made motion to approve the minutes from October 25, 2019 and June 12, 2019

Gaby seconded motion

Motion carried

IX. Other Business and Communication

Cory stated that Amy has been doing Trauma Informed Training for all staff. She stated that the county is committed to becoming trauma informed.

Diane stated that in the last six months or so, she has heard that McLean County Health Department was becoming a lot more accessible. She has seen a concerted effort to serve all who reside in our community.

X. Adjourn

Rick motioned for meeting for adjourn

Motion carried

Meeting Adjourned at 10:47am