



Mental Health Advisory Board
The McLean County Health Department
Monday, February 22, 2021
200 W. Front Street, Bloomington, Illinois

MINUTES

The virtual meeting was called to order at 9:02 AM

1. Roll Call: Chair Cory Tello, Rick Bleichner, Gaby Bontea, Mary Campbell, Dan Deneen, Faye Freeman-Smith, Trisha Malott, Dr. Kristine Strauss, Laurie Wollrab
Absent: Martha Dittmer, Sharon Fitzer, Brian Mohr

McLean County Health Department Staff Present: Amy Hancock, Behavioral Health Program Manager; Taylore Davis, Behavioral Health Specialist; Jeff Paternoster, Office Support Specialist II

2. Public Participation: None

3. Items for Information

- A. Updates on Human Service Programs within McLean County

Went over the document "Updates of Human Service Programs within McLean County." PATH has seen an increase in calls, able to handle volume. Have text line up and running. Updates by Board members included: Laurie W. mentioned that the McLean County Board approved \$46,000 or \$48,000 to PATH for the homeless population. Cory T. mentioned 553 funding to PATH for hiring additional supervisor for evening hours. Gabe B. discussed Safe Harbor's COVID testing and limitation of numbers due to COVID positive cases - currently serving approximately 35-40 individuals, when before normally were over capacity. Trisha M. mentioned Home Sweet Home was open, but capacity was limited. Rick B. mentioned keeping staff safe as possible, increase in 2020 mental health calls, domestic violence calls increased at beginning of pandemic but leveled off and ended the year consistent with past years. 2021 focusing on having good connections and resources to help people that are struggling. Cory T. mentioned the Governor's budget address including increases in Department of Human Services budget, Department of Mental Health budget, Behavioral Health special projects, and Substance use, Prevention and Recovery programs. Cory T. mentioned the D87 5-yr grant to build systems and capacity in using community linkages to provide mental health behavioral supports for students and staff. Cory T. mentioned the hiring of Marianne Manko as the Public Information Coordinator for the Health Department.

4. Items for Discussion

- A. Discuss the current climate of Human Service Strengths and Challenges within McLean County. MHAB's role is to help the Health Department with strategic thinking. Used the document "MHAB Discussion Guide" to guide the discussion on item #1 identifying the 2-3 needs that should be prioritized-given immediate attention:
 1. Stable and Safe Housing – not necessarily homeless. Stable housing is a need. Discussion on when the eviction moratorium is lifted how to be prepared for the rapid increase in homelessness and how that will affect mental health. United Way has shifted emphasis from food distribution to homeless. Housing Alliance that includes Bloomington Housing Authority, Mid Central Community Action, PATH, Prairie State Legal Services, and United Way has one form to fill out that works for each agency.

2. Suicide and Mental Health of Youth and Elderly – suggestion to expand the Project Oz Ending the Silence (ETS) program to include the general public, not just schools. Behavioral Health forum had a presentation by ETS and will have another lead by PATH on general suicide prevention. Need way to identify youth and elderly who are isolated and depressed with little or no support network that have mental health and care issues. School Resource Officers have noticed need for more outreach and home visits for students that unplugged and have fallen off the grid. Activity and Recreation Center (ARC) and Area Center on Aging are the main agencies for seniors.
3. Transition/Reintegration from Jail into the Community – transitional psychiatric and psychological services for continuity of care. Not funded by the justice system for adults. Need to look at different models for prison to community transformation programs.

Item #2 what would success/forward movement look like, what targets/goals/outcomes should aim for?

1. Stable and Safe Housing – begin conversation with Prairie Legal Services and landlord association about leveled response once moratorium is lifted. See what the homeless alliance has to offer. Lots of groups touch on this issue, with PATH as the go to resource.
2. Suicide and Mental Health of Youth and Elderly – get links out on education resources from the Behavioral Health Forum. Make sure Bloomington Housing Authority has information in a usable and friendly form to make sure it gets in the right hands.
3. Transition/Reintegration from Jail into the Community – connect with Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) and Behavioral Health Coordinating Council (BHCC) on how to improve transition process. Present county specific statistics to County Board Justice Committee to build community support – suggestion for Laurie W., Martha D., and Kristine S. to be involved. Laurie W. will reach out to the head of the committee.

Item #4 what activities/entities are addressing these issues/needs?

Look at models that are being used. Trisha M. offered her staff to do research.

Item #7 any barriers that to address?

The removal of bonds and bail in the statewide criminal reform bill is a good time to analyze the criminal system. Dan D. will send draft paper on transition to new law to Amy H. to distribute and would like added to agenda for next meeting.

Create progress reports on 3/22 and 4/22 and then meet again in May.

5. Action Items

A. MHAB By-Law's Updates to be Approved

Laurie W. asked if had to approve by-laws. Amy H. has incorporated recommendations that MHAB provided pre-pandemic. Updates are based off feedback provided in previous meetings. Amy H. will reach out to board members for feedback on by-laws. Rick B. suggested working draft to see changes.

Motion by Wollrab/Bleichner to table the by-laws vote to the next meeting.

Motion approved with a unanimous roll call vote.

B. Approve 09-25-2020 MHAB and BHPFC Meeting Minutes

Motion by Wollrab/Campbell to approve the September 25, 2020 minutes as presented.

Motion approved with a unanimous roll call vote.

6. Other Business

7. Motion by Malott/Bleichner to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 11:01 AM.