



Behavioral Health Policy and Funding Committee (BHPFC)

Friday, February 25, 2022

200 West Front Street, Bloomington, Illinois

MINUTES

1. The meeting was called to order at 9:05 AM
2. Roll Call
Present: Cory Tello, Judy Buchanan, Hannah Eisner, Carla Pohl
Absent: Susan Schafer
McLean County Health Department Staff Present: Amy Hancock, Behavioral Health Program Manager; Shannon Garlock, Office Support Staff II
3. Public Participation: None
4. Items for Discussion
 - A. Discussion of CY21 4th Quarter and Annual Board of Health Program Report
Amy stated highlights of each BoH funded agencies:
 - a. ROE – CY22 Embedded Schools contract holder with the same schools as CY21. During CY21, with MCCHS as the contract holder, challenge has been staffing shortages and parental engagement.
 - b. Mobile Crisis – has increased hospitalizations with placements located farther away from McLean County, homes, and resources, taking up to 1-2 days for bed placement availability. Members asked the following questions:
 - Why the number of duplicated clients?
 - Where are individuals referred to after calling Crisis?
 - Is the Triage Center interacting with the same clients that frequently utilize Mobile Crisis Unit? Can the Triage Center assist this need?
 - Does the Mobile Crisis Unit take clients to the Triage Center? And if so, what does this interaction and process entail?
 - How many individuals are serviced at Triage Center that are generally not serviced by the Mobile Crisis Unit?
 - What/who are the Triage Center's client referral sources?
 - Does PATH refer to the Triage Center?
 - Can FUSE accept referrals from the Mobile Crisis Unit that meet criteria and are frequent users of the program?

Members asked Amy to invite Vanessa Granger-Belcher, BHCC Director,

to the next BHPFC to meet her and get more information on the Triage program Cory reminded the committee that there was Crisis Response group that was formed several years ago to facilitate coordination among crisis response service providers. She asked if the group was still meeting

- c. Adult Psychiatric Services – There was general discussion about the ongoing issue of the level of funding provided for this program. Members asked the following:

- How many people are screened for requested services and are not accepted in the program? (Average per quarter)

- What are the reasons these individuals are not accepted into the program?

- Where does FUSE/Triage Center can assist?

- Numbers of hospitalizations increased due to what data?

- What is the timeframe to receive services?

- What validations does MCCHS have to support the following statement from their report: “In McLean County, inadequate access to community prescribers is leading to unnecessary suffering for those who cannot obtain care and their families. It also contributes to avoidable hospitalizations and incarcerations for those in need of treatment, which strain taxpayer-funded systems.”

- How open have local doctors been in treating patients with mental health needs?

- What is the relationship between MCCHS, and the doctors’ offices look like?

Amy informed the committee that Joan Hartman would be the new executive director for CHS. The committee asked Amy to Joan Hartman meet with the committee in May to discuss adult psychiatry and mobile crisis programs.

- d. PATH – Amy advised the committee that PATH received new State funding for 988 services. This is a separate suicide prevention response line and will operate in conjunction with 211. PATH will need to hire several staff to handle the calls and is experiencing difficulty finding people. Members asked the following:

- Does PATH have any positions specific to outreach suicide prevention?

- What options are available when a person calls for crisis service?

- e. Problem Solving Courts Services – Amy reported that the program recently hired new staff. Staffing has been a concern during CY21. The program had some down time when the courts were closed due to Covid. Members asked the following:

- Does Chestnut still have a waitlist for clients?

- Is Drug Court accepting new clients?

Amy indicated that the program did not use all funding in 2021 and that

surplus goes into fund balance.

- f. Project Oz – Amy told the committee there is only 1 staff member for Ending the Silence and the fear of burnout for that person is a concern. For CY23, the program will need 1 additional full-time employee to support this program; for a total of 2 full-time staff members to support the program.

Members discussed the following:

For CY22, does this program need to adjust their budget and/or need to request more funding?

The committee members asked Amy to arrange for Jackie Dietrich to appear at next meeting to review the overall program budget.

- g. The Baby Fold –Amy indicated that the agency experienced staffing shortages during CY21. This agency was greatly affected by staff shortages during the year. By the 3rd quarter new staff was hired, and outcomes are stabilized.

B. Discussion of CY23 BoH Behavioral Health Funding

The committee considered whether last year’s funding model be utilized again for CY23?

The group concurred that renewal grants should be offered to current recipients. The committee will make a recommendation to the Board for that approach. There was discussion about the level of funding that will be needed or could be made available given inflation and staff needs.

C. Discussion of Strategic Plan

Draft of Strategic Plan documentation provided to members, minimal discussion due to time limitations.

D. Other Business

There was a discussion about the need to coordinate county mental health programs funded by property tax dollars administered by the Board of Health and the mental health programs funded by sales tax dollars administered by the County Administrator. Carla Pohl indicated that she would initiate discussions with the County Administrator and asked the committee members to provide her with an outline of concerns and suggestions.

5. Action Items

A. Approve 9/24/21 Minutes.

Cory Tello made a motion to approve minutes as corrected to remove specific requirements for MHAB membership, other than focus on behavioral health expertise, an interest in behavioral health, and/or lived experience

Cory Tell made a second motion to approve minutes as corrected by the McLean County Health Department’s Behavioral Webpage needs updated

Seconded by: Judy Buchanan

Roll call taken; Motion passed.

Adjournment at 11:17 AM

Motion by Judy Buchanan to adjourn and seconded by Carla Pohl. Meeting Adjourned.