



The McLean County Board of Health Behavioral Health Funding and Policy Committee
Wednesday, June 24, 2020, 3:30PM
200 W. Front Street, Room 223, Bloomington, Illinois.

MINUTES

1. The virtual meeting was called to order at 3:35pm
2. Roll Call: Cory Tello, Judy Buchanan, Hannah Eisner, Carla Pohl, Susan Schafer

Staff Participation: Amy Hancock, Behavioral Health Program Manager; Julie Sullivan Office Support Specialist II

Members of the Mental Health Advisory Board: Laurie Wollrab, Mary Campbell

3. Public Participation: None

The public will be able to view the meeting, live, on Facebook and YouTube. Links can be found at <https://www.mcleancountyil.gov/>

4. Action Items
 - A. Board of Health
Funding Focus Areas for CY21

Discussions centered on building priority areas for the Mental Health money the Board of Health (BOH) awards. The joint meeting on June 4, 2020 with the Mental Health Advisory Board (MHAB) members and the Behavioral Health Policy and Funding Committee provided valuable input. The recommendation from the group meeting include Crisis Services, Psychiatric Services, Mental Health Counseling and Youth Services as categories for future funding.

Hannah shares Cory's suggestion to gather and post on the BH website the various Needs Assessments from CHIP, Health Action Plan and others. They are great reference guides for public and committee members. Cory checked in with the United Way and Mid Central Community Action and can send the data to the members. Both surveys show basic essentials are needed like childcare, paying utilities, rent and mortgage. The unemployment numbers in April 2019 were 364 and the numbers in April 2020 were 4923. It is asked for members to consider if there are areas that take less priority now and are the funds reaching diverse groups of people with the programs?

On the screen for all to see, Amy presented a spreadsheet detailing agencies and dollar amounts awarded to them as "Funding Focus Areas Approved in CY2020." This helped with discussions for focus areas to move forward with in 2021 to be approved by the BOH at their July 2020 meeting. There will be two more meetings to cover the specifics of what would fall into those focus areas. Historically, a large part of the budget went to Adult Psychiatry and Crisis. Currently and in the coming year, the needs and numbers may increase. It is suggested that additional funds be allocated from the BOH considering

programs beyond Adult Psychiatry and Crisis may benefit from additional funding. Cory adds more details about what is going on with the agencies she spoke with. Remote work created issues of continued engagement with clients; getting people in the homes together for online counseling and technical issues; sessions may have been shortened so billing for less time were a few issues. Psychiatrists have been working remotely while their nurses have not. Only one of the services can be billed in a situation when the nurse is with the client in the home and the psychiatrist is meeting with the client at the same time. Expanding services with technology could be budget topics for agencies as they find it to be more effective.

The following discussions were not held in a “priority order” manner of categories, it was noted.

It is agreed Adult Psychiatry should be kept as a primary funding area. To maximize the resources to provide for more people could include trying a fee for service, voucher system or other plan. Those working with the clientele should be doing so as a whole team system. Cory adds United Way is partnering with other agencies including PATH to do a 211 campaign getting the information out. The housing coalition is a big focus of United Way and others. The Mid Central Community Action survey includes rural communities in the county. 211 with PATH may be the tool to reach many and help others become familiar with what is available in the community. One idea suggested for this committee is to have a “pot of money be out there” and when needed perhaps “respond with special grants” to help the agencies.

Further discussion involved looking at social determinants from past documentation and evidence shows social determinants contribute so much and with COVID 19 the need is great; ask for additional dollars; are there any new areas not on the list; or ways to work with less money or more money; and the consideration of what dollars may be available. Maybe set aside an area like “Promoting Positive Child-Parental Relationships” for a year or so to fund more somewhere else? If using broad categories and no set dollar amount, agencies may respond with what is currently needed and how much. Due to the history, it may be difficult to change how the money is allocated and how much there will be to spend next year so advice from others would be needed including those who are good at grant writing.

It is agreed “Crises Response” could be one category name that includes Crisis Hotline and Mobile Crisis Unit. Proposing that organizations present creative intervention ideas instead of giving a lump sum to them was a suggestion. This funding money is for Behavioral Health and can only be used for mental health. Last year the agency’s response to the RFP process was outcomes and objectives and they replied if they could meet those. The members promote collaboration and now so many groups are putting money together to help people. For example, the State Board of Education that is putting large amounts of money towards helping families get technology they need. It is suggested to put agencies together requesting what can you do together. It may be blended with some funding they are already getting, then award this funding to collaborate services

Collaborative plans would be good especially meeting the needs of youth. School resource officers exist. Could they be used in a slightly different way “like the community school’s idea to reach into the neighborhood and reach the most at risk families?” There was discussion about the collaboration with the Embedded School project. Maybe look at different funds going to different agencies that go into the schools more like the problem-solving court model with centralized organization that is figuring out where best the money can be used. Need to ask what are the youth needs right now and how collectively can agencies help youth. It is reported that agencies are currently exhausted. They had to change their way of working, struggle to keep their clients engaged and are learning ways to do so remotely. Agencies are also furloughing people. Asking them to brainstorm new proposals may be tough for them. It is agreed, the Regional Office of Education needs asked about any federal money they may already be

receiving for mental health care. Another issue is the state may be taking back about one-third of the money given to agencies used for protecting personnel.

It is suggested collapsing into one “Youth Services” category the other agencies working with youth and have them help define what should be under that. Collapsing into a larger category before the RFPs go out gives time for meaningful conversations to get input from agencies. They can be asked to describe what is needed; what is going on with prevention; what is going on in schools, the communities and families. Discussed collapsing the categories of Crisis Hotline, Mobile Crisis Unit, Adult Psychiatry under Crisis Services. Then, under Youth include Youth Substance Use Prevention, Youth Suicide Prevention, Embedded School, Community-Based Interventions and Promote Positive Child-Parental Relationships.

This leaves Problem Solving Courts as a separate category that may be the most urgent need right now, it is said. Continuity of care seems to be an issue and essential and it is not sure if Problem Solving Courts address that. There are a few programs trying to help with the transition out of jail, but not many. It is added that referral resources from the jail or IDOC may depend on the programs the person is in during their jail or prison time. The referral is not always given so some leave jail or prison without a connection to a resource. Locally, Labyrinth houses eight women at a time so the waiting list is long. Problem Solving Courts funding supports Recovery Court and Drug Court, so it has about 60 people with high significant risk. Low risk offenders are not taken. BOH money for Problem Solving Courts also goes to Chestnut to provide recovery coaches for those in the Drug Court. The recovery coach services provided are non-billable, so that money helps cover them. Other smaller funding goes to McLean County Center for Human Services to provide staffing for those in Recovery Court and Center for Youth and Family Solutions for the Moral Recognition Therapy group. If the criminal justice dollars are going to Problem Solving Courts maybe that category is titled Criminal Justice. Then Criminal Justice could be the fourth category. That leaves the list as: Adult Psychiatry, Crisis Response, Youth Services, and Criminal Justice.

It is asked where does counseling for adults and youth fit in? Some people might not need medication, just counseling. Using “Adult Mental Health Services” could cover Adult Psychiatry and adult counseling. The provider partners get funds for help paying for counseling services that aren’t paid by insurance. In the past this has been a capacity grant, and should that continue? Keep in mind all of those unemployed recently who lost their health insurance. It is important to think how the dollars will be used and assure help to those who are unable to pay for services. The members agree to call this category “Adult Mental Health”.

As a review the general categories are Crisis Response, Youth Services, Criminal Justice, Adult Mental Health Behavioral Health Services. Susan motions to approve the four categories, Judy seconds the motion.

The members agree to meeting July 6, 2020 and August 3, 2020 to discuss the logistics of the categories. The goal is for the RFPs to go out the middle of August giving Amy time to prepare the RFP and distribute them. The members are reminded of the impact the funds have on the agencies working on budgets at this time. It is said that voting on accepting these is okay with the “caveat to quickly start meeting with these agencies” so they know what has been discussed and they can start looking at their short- and long-term plans. The caveat was not approved.

Before voting on the motion, it is discussed the Criminal Justice name doesn’t seem to reflect the intention. Suggestions for the name included Justice Involved Behavioral Health Services, or Criminal Justice BH Services, Problem Solving Courts, Support for Justice Involved Adults, BH Services to

Support Justice Involved Adults. It is asked if these titles are too broad if wanting to continue supporting the Problem Solving Court model. Services are needed for those released to link them from the jail or prison to the community and services they need. Hannah suggests the motion will be approved with the understanding that prior to the board meeting better wording will be made to name the category or better characterize the Criminal Justice focus area. This will be done by email. For the next meeting, discussions should include historical relationships with some organizations, figure out how this new method takes place. It is suggested to also include the McLean County Behavioral Health Coordinating Council.

The motion passes for the four funding focus categories with the understanding members will send out a more crafted version than what is being agreed on at this time.

It is confirmed the July 6 meeting at 11:00 am works for the members for the next meeting and Amy will check if it will be in person or virtual.

It is added that racial disparities and social determinants need to be included in each conversation. And, are there unique services to reach? Cory will have further discussions with Trisha and Mark Jontry. At the MHAB meeting a full recommendation was not given. Those members saw the categories then and should be advised of the new “collapsed” categories. Mary adds the category, “Problem Solving Courts or Criminal Justice” is one area where one can see the widest disparity in treatment of individuals of color and for economic disparities and should give it its own standing. “Supportive Services” is suggested as a title. Further titles may be sent to Hannah.

5. Adjournment motion was made by Judy, Susan seconded the motion. Motion approved. The meeting ended at 5:12 pm