

MINUTES

LARIMER COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH POLICY COUNCIL AND TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE COMBINED MEETING

Date: April 6, 2020
Time: 8:00-10:00am
Location: Teleconference via Zoom
Contact: Laurie Stolen, Behavioral Health Services Director
Facilitator: Maro Zagoras, Desired Outcomes, Inc.
TAC Presenters: Seth Forwood, Michael Ruttenberg, Heather Vesgaard

Policy Council Attendees (10):

Steve Johnson, Nick Christensen, Susan Gutowsky, Will Karspeck, Lisa Kurth, Kevin Lemasters, Kristie Melendez, Chad Morris, Steve Olson, Ken Zornes

Policy Council Absentees:

Marianne Dungan, Jill Grossman-Belisle, Troy Hamman, Mary Maldonado, Clark McCoy

Technical Advisory Attendees (19):

Al Anderson, Hank Baise, Emily Bassarear, Whitney Bennett-Clear, Lory Clukey, Lesley Craig, Erin Eulenfeld, Seth Forwood, Fred Garcia, Laurie Klith, Hannah Knox, Lauren Lewis, Stephanie Madsen-Pixler, Rachel Olsen, Carol Plock, Mike Ruttenberg, Kim Sharpe (for Carl Nassar), MaryBeth Swanson, Heather Vesgaard

Technical Advisory Absentees:

Andrew Battles, Tom Gonzales, Shannon Hughes, Carl Nassar, Nate Riggs, Laura Schwartz, Jessica Shiveley (resigned her seat), Laura Walker, Jessie Willard

BHS Staff: Rachel Iverson, Jessica Plummer, Kim Priddy, Andrea Smith, Laurie Stolen, Jennifer Wolfe-Kimbell

CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS – 8:05 a.m.

AGENDA ITEMS

- a) Laurie asked the BHPC and the TAC if everyone was comfortable proceeding with the agenda as outlined. Nick Christensen asked if there could be discussion around the COVID-19 crisis and what role we could play in supporting the community. The agenda was modified to include this discussion.
- b) PAC March minutes review and approval
 - i. **Motion:** Laurie Stolen asked for a review and approval of the Behavioral Health Policy Council (BHPC) minutes from the March 2, 2020 meeting. Steve Olson made the motion to approve, seconded by Susan Gutowsky. The vote was carried unanimously 10-0 in approval of the minutes as written.
- c) TAC March minutes review and approval
 - i. **Motion:** Laurie Stolen asked for a review and approval of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) minutes from the March 9, 2020 meeting. Heather Vesgaard made the motion to approve, seconded by Seth Forwood. The vote was carried unanimously 19-0 in approval of the minutes as written.

DISCUSSION/DECISIONS

- a) Laurie Stolen discussed the meeting ground rules for voting and group discussion through Zoom.
- b) Laurie Stolen shared the County Attorney's input on the BHPC and the TAC allowing public comment during their meetings. Only two Larimer County Boards/Commissions currently accept public comment which are the decision-making Board: The Board of Health and the Planning Commission. No County Advisory Board accepts public comment. Therefore, the County Attorney's guidance is that we do not allow public comment at the BHPC nor TAC meetings.
 - i. Steve Olson asked that we create a platform for the public to comment and that it be accessible through the Behavioral Health Services website in addition to making a note on the monthly agendas for the public to

read. It was also suggested by the BHPC to still allow presentations by non-members, by invitation.

- ii. The Behavioral Health Services team responded that currently they have a Facebook page and a link on the Larimer County Behavioral Health Services webpage where public comment is received and responded to regularly.
 - iii. **Motion:** Laurie Stolen asked for a motion from the BHPC to follow the guidance of the County Attorney on public comment. Steve Olson made the motion to approve, seconded by Kevin Lemasters. The vote was carried unanimously 10-0 in favor of the motion. No public comment will be accepted at the BHPC nor TAC meetings.
- c) Laurie gave an update regarding the COVID-19 crisis, that she has been given through the Emergency Operations Center. Carol Plock gave out the Connections crisis phone number which is being used and advertised as a community resource for mental health and other health related emergency needs. The phone number is 970-221-5551. Summitstone Health Partners also has a crisis number of 970-494-4200 ext. 4.
- d) Additional discussion was had around how Behavioral Health Services grant dollars could be utilized to assist the community with the COVID-19 crisis more immediately. It was discussed that we allocate \$100,000 from the 2020 grant funds to be made available for distribution as soon as possible for the COVID-19 crisis. Access to these funds is pending BoCC approval and emergency fund grant process determination. Steve Johnson asked if the BHPC would be comfortable having him ratify this motion in front of the Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) tomorrow, Tuesday, April 7, 2020. The BHPC approved of this. Laurie S. presented this recommendation on April 7th and it was approved by the BoCC unanimously.
- i. **Motion:** Laurie Stolen asked for a motion to create an emergency/crisis fund in the amount \$100,000.00 with release of funds pending BoCC approval and a formalized grant process from Behavioral Health Services. Steve Olson made the motion to approve, seconded by Will Karspeck. The vote was carried unanimously 10-0 in favor of the motion.
- e) This ended the COVID-19 conversation during our teleconference. It was agreed to take further discussion offline.

- f) TAC members Heather Vesgaard and Seth Forwood presented the TAC recommendations for 2020 funding priority areas. Mike Ruttenberg was required to leave to attend a COVID related meeting. Maro Zagoras facilitated this portion of the discussion. An updated funding priority areas document was emailed to the BHPC and TAC at the beginning of the TAC discussion. The BHPC was given opportunities to ask questions during and after the TAC presentation.

INFORMATION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a) BHS will report back to the BHPC with an emergency/crisis fund process as soon as possible.
- b) The BHPC will vote on the 2020 funding priority areas at their May 4, 2020 meeting.
- c) BOCC will be asked to approve the 2020 funding priority areas at the BoCC Admin Matters meeting on May 11, 2020.

NEXT MEETING:

- a) **BHPC MEETING**
 - Date:** May 4, 2020
 - Time:** 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
 - Location:** TBD

- b) **TAC MEETING**
 - Date:** September 21, 2020
 - Time:** 8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
 - Location:** TBD

ADJOURN – 10:00 a.m.