

MINUTES

LARIMER COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH POLICY COUNCIL

Date: January 04, 2021
Time: 8:00-10:00 a.m.
Location: Zoom Webinar
Contact: Laurie Stolen, Director
Ryan Barstow, Business Operations Coordinator

Participants:

Nick Christensen, Susan Gutowsky, Steve Johnson, Will Karspeck, Lisa Kurth, Clark McCoy, Chad Morris, Steve Olson, Barry Wilson, Kevin Lemasters

BHS Staff:

Ryan Barstow, Jessica Plummer, Kim Priddy, Andrea Smith, Laurie Stolen, Jennifer Wolfe-Kimbell

Absent:

Marianne Dungan, Lisa Laake, Mary Maldonado, Troy Hamman, Scott Webermeier

CALL TO ORDER – 8:03 a.m.

STANDING AGENDA ITEMS

- a) Laurie Stolen asked if all BHPC members had a chance to review the December meeting minutes. She then asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the December 7, 2020 meeting. Steve Olson made the motion, seconded by Barry Wilson, the motion was approved unanimously.
- b) Kim Priddy provided an update on the BHS dashboard and shared [a link](#) to review some of the data collected so far. The data reviewed was a set of indicators of community

mental health impacts from COVID-19 collected via a new survey from a Facebook collaboration with a consortium of universities, public health officials, and the Delphi group at Carnegie Mellon University. Based on feedback received pertaining to our proposed dashboard, council members are interested to see data split out by demographic groups, being able to see data trends year over year, and using the data as a quick way to gauge the state of behavioral health of the community.

- c) Laurie gave an update on the BHS facility and explained that a small and intimate groundbreaking ceremony took place on 12/16/20. FCTV was there to record the ceremony and the video can be found via [this link](#). Earth moving at the site of the new facility could start as early as the first quarter of 2021.

DISCUSSION/DECISIONS

- a) Laurie discussed the proposal of adding a Chair and Vice-Chair to the BHPC, positions which are already outlined in the Council by-laws. Laurie briefly discussed the proposed duties and opened up the conversation to the council. The Council discussed the proposal and decided that the Chair and Vice-Chair positions should be open to both the elected officials and at-large council members. Laurie reviewed the nomination process which would occur at the next meeting in February once the new Commissioner Liaison was selected and stated that outreach to council members will occur to ensure we have as much representation and attendance as possible for the February meeting.
- b) Laurie discussed the 2021 advisory group calendars and calendar appointments which have been sent out to everyone. She let members know that calendars are also posted to the new advisory group portal on the BHS website as well as attached to calendar appointments. Members can contact Ryan Barstow if they have any issues accessing meeting information.
- c) Laurie led a discussion on the strategic direction of the advisory groups for 2021. Kim Priddy briefly reviewed the logic model and the 6 funding priorities that we will focus on over the next 3-5 years. The advisory groups can revisit funding priorities at the beginning of each year, look at the different levels of priority and determine what needs to be done and how we can allocate funding to accomplish those priorities using the expertise of the BHPC, TAC, CAC to answer these questions. Laurie shared how that information and criteria can then be included in the grant application itself and inform the selection process. That discussion led the council to consider how an emergent community behavioral health issue might fit into the scope of BHS work if there are predetermined priorities. Laurie stated that if an immediate community issue arises a crisis response fund, like the crisis fund set up as a result of COVID-19, can be established at the approval of the Board of County Commissioners. Steve Olson recommended setting up a reserve fund for the BHPC to set aside for emerging behavioral health crises, Laurie asked for a motion to be made for the council to consider this. Steve Olson made the motion, no second to the motion was made. The Council then opened the topic of a reserve fund up for a larger discussion to determine logistics of how it could

work. Laurie and Andrea Smith then went on to provide further explanation of the BHS budget, when funding for programs is made available and how it could be used in an emergent situation. Discussion returned to the topic of how priorities are determined by the advisory groups and how the dashboard can support that by providing evidence based data and direction to make funding decisions. The importance of implementing data based decision making and community members being able to voice issues to BHS and it's advisory groups was stressed. Laurie reiterated that notion and reminded everyone that healthinfosource.com is also soliciting input from providers in the community and will provide another platform for that information to be made available. Discussion then returned to the possibility of a reserve fund and if it could be used to help grantees pivot or adjust their programs in the case of a crisis derailing or hindering a project. Jessica Plummer then explained how grant funding in these circumstances may be considered for no cost extensions or rebudgeting. Based on questions from the council she then explained the logistics of how and when grant funds are made available to grantees, and reallocated or reimbursed if necessary. This discussion was resolved by stating the importance of documenting the structure and process of these reallocations as well as a defined response to emergent behavioral health needs in the community.

- d) Ryan Barstow provided the council with an update on the grantee virtual agency tours explaining that grantee's were surveyed and 20 responded saying they'd like to participate. Ryan will confirm the schedule for tours with grantees and they will start at next month's BHPC meeting in February.

INFORMATION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a) Laurie gave an update on the new Commissioner Liaison to the BHPC with Commissioner Steve Johnson retiring on 1/11/21. Laurie shared that all 3 Commissioners have an interest in the BHPC. They will appoint a new Commissioner Liaison to the BHPC in the coming weeks and that person will be joining us in February.
- b) Jennifer Wolfe-Kimbell reviewed the BHS facility naming & branding project. She shared that the RFP process was highly competitive, 25 proposals were received and the selection committee spent a lot of time reviewing and evaluating the proposals. The selected proposal was from Xuma Communications out of Denver. They were selected partially because of their strong reliance on data/research and they're fully equipped to handle the research behind the reasoning to name and brand the facility. They will work with several stakeholder groups, including the BHPC, and the project is currently designed to occur in 4 phases. It's currently in phase 1 and on Jan. 8th BHS is meeting with Xuma to schedule out the rest of the project. Jennifer explained the overview of the work that will be completed throughout the project and it's set to wrap up in May. Ultimately the facility naming will be decided by the Board of County Commissioners but the goal is to solicit feedback from all the stakeholders and bring those recommendations to the BoCC for consideration.

- c) Laurie ended the meeting by thanking Commissioner Johnson for his 12 years of dedicated support and work, he will be greatly missed. The council reiterated this sentiment. Commissioner Johnson gave some closing remarks and discussed his future plans. Commissioner Johnson thanked everyone for their work including county staff, the BHS office, and everyone who worked on the behavioral health ballot initiative. He stated that he believes Larimer County is now the leader in matching the same high quality of behavioral health to the level of physical health in our community and gave his thanks for the honor and privilege to work and be associated with the Council.
- d) Laurie then answered a council member's question on how BHS funding will work after the facility is opened. She shared that the 5 year plan is to have specific funding pathways: *the impact fund*, for grant funding, *the facility fund*, used for the BHS facility, the intention of which is to decrease emergency room use for individuals with behavioral health issues and reduce criminal justice involvement by being able to intervene with people earlier so they don't slide into crises, etc., and *the bridge fund*, intended to remove barriers between individuals in the community and the facility, by covering expenses for transportation, copays, benefits, etc. Laurie went on to explain that details involved in this work will be accomplished in collaboration with the advisory groups, and the future could involve looking to make partnerships for a campus model at the BHS facility site. Future work could also include examining pathways for sustainability of funding (sales tax extension, creating our own revenue sources, etc.). Laurie thanked everyone for their work and reminded everyone to consider whether or not they'd like to serve as Chair or Vice-Chair of the Council or nominate someone else to do so at our next meeting.

ADJOURN – 9:49 a.m.