

WASHINGTON COUNTY
Behavioral Health Council
August 28th, 2024

Meeting Attendance:

Members Present: Kim Cooper, Brian Decker, Carol Greenough, Marcia Hille, Karen James, Kimberley Krause, Veronica Lozano, Ashley Marsh, Dave Mowry, Sally Reid, Larysa Thomas, Laura Vences, Jennifer Yonker

Members Absent: J. Sean Fields, Colin McCoy, Steven Youngs, Mary Monnat

Staff Present: Mjere Simantel-Director of Health and Human Services, Ian May-Behavioral Health Program Manager; Naomi Hunsaker-Addictions Supervisor; Heather Owens-Program Specialist

Guests Present: Allison Vu, Juan Pablo Villalobos, Maya Keller, Kiyomi Arbuckle

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 9:02am.

Introductions: There were introductions of members, staff, and guests in person and via Zoom.

With the chair absent and no current vice chair, Ian May acted as facilitator for today's meeting as approved by the council members in attendance. We had 13 members present for the meeting.

Public/Visitor comments if requested:

- Karen James asked if members had communicated about their absences. Ian reported that J Sean Fields had been in communication with Nick about his absences.

July 2024 Minutes

- **MOTION:** Adopt the July minutes as submitted.
- Dave Mowry Moved/ Carol Greenough Seconded
- All members in attendance voted in favor. / There were no objections.
- July minutes were approved and adopted by a quorum of 13 members.

Program Updates:

- **Additions:**
 - Naomi reported that the deflection program will go live September 1st. Danielle Farr was chosen as the program coordinator. There is continued collaboration with the DA, Law Enforcement, Behavioral Health and Health and Human Services to build this program. The deflection program will pull from established relationships with BHRN providers and other contracted providers. There will be two peers hired to work with MHAAO, and 4th Dimension specifically for the deflection program. The best contact for deflection is Danielle Farr: Danielle.Farr@washingtonty.gov or 503-846-3279.
 - General funds contracting has continued its focus on increasing culturally responsive care.
 - There will be a new peer drop-in center opening soon with NW Instituto Latino.
 - Washington County's Naloxone distribution will soon be run by the Alano Club, and it will be called Project Red. There is new Naloxone training available in both English and Spanish and the goal will be to hold some train the trainer events.
 - International overdose awareness day is at the end of this month. The county will be posting on social media about the campaign which honors those that have been lost to overdose.
 - Karen spoke about some providers having difficulty connecting to the Naloxone resources and not being familiar with its usage, or worried about liabilities. Naomi hopes that the

newly developed Naloxone training will empower individuals to use Naloxone. Oregon has a Good Samaritan law that protects individuals assist in an emergency. It may be beneficial to have Naloxone trainings directly at provider locations/homes. Workforce turnover could contribute to lack of training and staff comfortability using Naloxone. The goal for the new Naloxone distribution program is to make it easier to distribute to providers that need the supply. Communications about the availability of Naloxone may not be reaching the right staff at organizations, leading to a delay in supplies. Marcia commented that Sequoia gets their supply of Naloxone from the state program, and it is available at their offices and in their homes.

- Brian is hoping that deflection data can be shared back to the group on a regular basis. Some data that would be of interest includes:
 - Individuals who enter deflection vs. being criminally charged.
 - Individuals who complete deflection vs. those who drop out.
 - Barriers noted by individuals to being successful in deflection.
- The county has been looking into data collection and reporting methods and once the deflection program is up and running should be able to bring data to this group as requested. Carol commented that it is important not to focus too much on just the data.
- Resources provided by Naomi:
 - [Washington County Deflection Program | Washington County, OR](#)
 - [International OD Awareness Day](#) (August 31)
 - [Washington County Addictions Services](#)
 - [County-Funded Treatment for Substance Use Disorders](#)
 - [BHRN Webpage](#)
 - [Washington County Opioid and Overdose Prevention Webpage](#)
 - [Prevent Drug Overdose Campaign](#)
 - [Gambling Webpage](#)
 - [Washington County Prevention Webpage](#)
 - [Harm Reduction Webpage](#)
- **Community Mental Health Program:**
 - The deflection coordinator was hired as reported by Naomi.
 - The MOU was finalized between 911 and the crisis line. This will allow transfer of calls between the two entities. The number of calls has been increasing, up from an average of 13,000 per year.
 - To increase community awareness of available crisis services, the county is doing a survey (flyer distributed to the group) to determine what services the public is aware of. The goal is to increase awareness and decrease barriers to crisis services. The county is partnering with the Oregon Health Authority and the 988 campaign to increase awareness.
 - Karen asked about efforts to improve crisis response after a lawsuit was brought against the county. Ian reported that individualized crisis responses are happening. Each situation requires a different response dependent on the level of life and safety components. There was concern about the amount of police responding to these crisis calls and trauma it can cause individuals when law enforcement responds. Ian reported that it is very nuanced as to when the police are needed. They try to create the most successful environment based on the situation and sometimes that includes law enforcement. It was not known if the crisis team was fully staffed, but the pool of candidates applying for positions is larger and more qualified. To provide more clinician led responses, there would need to be a much larger workforce available. Mjere reported that in 2022, the mobile crisis team responded to 2100 calls, and in the 4-year span of 2019-2022 MHRT responded to 12,000 calls. The goal for the MOU between 911 and crisis services is to better triage those calls to get them to the right responding team. Sally reported that they ask targeted questions in order to send the right response. Naomi mentioned that peer response, training for EMS/fire staff, and CIT

training for law enforcement staff should all lead to more successful responses. There are seven different law enforcement agencies in our county, and they all are independent organizations which means there is greater need for good coordination.

- **Oregon Health Plan/CCOs**

- The housing portion of the 1115 waiver goes into live November 1st. The county is partnering with Health Share and Trillium to operate as a hub. The housing coordinator for the program may attend the BHC meeting in the future. Carol asked about collaboration with Community Connect and there is no information on that at this time.
- The CCO contracts are mostly in place for the care coordination and safety net services provided at the county. 55% of safety net recipients are CCO members so they are invested in the services provided.
- The Oregon Administrative Rules around care coordination are changing. The new rules will open care coordination to any member without screening or eligibility. The county will continue to serve the more acute individuals, while the CCOs will provide the coordination for less acute individuals.
- In the CCO budget the county requested increased funding for crisis as well as funding for peers for the CATT.
- In the Hillsboro CATT location, the drywall is going up and things are moving ahead with no delays so far.

- **BH Division Budget Process:** This process hasn't started yet.

Member Updates/Sharing:

- The members requested a housing representative attend the BHC meetings.
- The members would like to reach out to Care Oregon about attendance at the council meetings. Nick will follow up with Care Oregon about attending a future meeting.
- Karen asked about the wait times for Aid and Assist exceeding the required 7 days. Ian will ask Chance to come speak to the group in more detail about the Aid and Assist program. Mjere is working with Dr. Pinals in coordination with the state to figure out how to decrease wait times by increasing community resources needed to move individuals out of the state hospital. More community resources would require more funding.
- Carol shared that with school back in session there will be an increase in need for child services as struggles will be more visible. There are more behavioral health staff stationed in schools. There is a specialized response team MRSS (mobile response and stabilization services) that is directed towards children and families. It is accessed the same way that all crisis services are accessed.
- Marcia reported that Sequoia has very few staff vacancies and there has been an increase in applicants interested in providing child and family therapy. It is also reported that in some geographical pockets there are agencies with capacity not being utilized.

Member Absences and Officer Nominations Follow Up

-Vote for Officer Removal

-Nomination and Vote on New Officers

- Mjere Simantel joined the meeting to follow up on July's discussion regarding member absences and the motion to remove officers and members. Brian Deckers asked if Steven Youngs had been notified and it was confirmed he was notified, but there was no response. The following motions were presented regarding Colin McCoy and Steven Youngs.
- **MOTION:** To remove Colin McCoy from the chair position and from membership to the Behavioral Health Council.
 - Brian Decker Moved/ Marcia Hille Seconded
 - All in attendance voted in favor/ There were no objections.

- The motion passed by a quorum of 13 members.
- The following members were not present and did not vote: J. Sean Fields, Colin McCoy, Steven Youngs, Mary Monnat
- **MOTION:** To remove Steven Youngs from membership to the Behavioral Health Council.
 - Brian Decker Moved/ Karen James Seconded
 - There was one objection by Sally Reid.
 - The motion passed by a vote of 12 in favor-1 opposed.
 - The following members were not present and did not vote: J. Sean Fields, Colin McCoy, Steven Youngs, Mary Monnat

Nominations for Officers:

Meeting Chair: Sally Reid submitted a letter of interest to the committee in March of 2024 (please note the year on the letter distributed is incorrect). Sally gave a brief statement about her interest in this position. She is passionate about mental health and substance use issues. She has experience leading the Aloha Business Association. The members discussed the nomination.

- **MOTION:** To nominate Sally Reid for the position of Chair.
 - Marcia Hille Moved/ Carol Greenough Seconded
 - All members in attendance voted in favor. / There were no objections.
 - The motion passed by a quorum of 13 members.

Meeting Vice-Chair: Brian Decker self-nominated for the position of vice chair. Brian gave a brief statement about his interest in the position. He believes strongly in the mission and as a public defender has represented many indigent individuals as well as those struggling with mental health and substance use. As an attorney, he utilizes the rules to ensure the work is done effectively and efficiently. He has also held different roles on other boards. The members discussed the nomination.

- **MOTION:** To nominate Brian Decker for the position of Vice-Chair.
 - Carol Greenough Moved/ Karen James Seconded
 - All members in attendance voted in favor. / There were no objections.
 - The motion passed by a quorum of 13 members.

Legislative Updates: There were no legislative updates at this meeting. The members request that a written summary be provided for the next meeting.

Meeting Wrap Up:

- Marcia spoke about a workgroup she is attending with NAMI to draft new legislation for civil commitment. It will be convening next month. The best outcome would be to increase the amount of community resources available and then discuss lowering the bar for what is needed for civil commitment. This will be presented by the deadline for the next session. There may be other groups working on proposals for submission for this legislative session.
- Brian asked about the length of officer terms due to having an off-cycle appointment. The bylaws will be reviewed, and the information will be presented at the next meeting. Typically, officer terms are one year, and the current appointees may be eligible to continue their terms at the next official appointment meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:32a.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Heather Owens.