

**WASHINGTON COUNTY**  
**Behavioral Health Council**  
**July 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**Meeting Attendance:**

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

**Members Absent:** J.Sean Fields (excused per email to Nick), Colin McCoy, Steven Youngs

**Staff Present:** Marni Kuyl-Assistant County Administrator, Ian May-BH Program Manager; Kathy Prenevost-Outgoing Addictions Supervisor; Naomi Hunsaker-New Addictions Supervisor; Heather Owens-Program Specialist

**Guests Present:** David Bonn

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 9:00am.

**Introductions (Member and Visitors):** There was a round of introductions of members, staff and guests in person and via Zoom.

**Public/Visitor comments if requested:** There was no public or visitor comments.

- 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 14 members present for the meeting.

**April 2024 Minutes**

- **MOTION:** Adopt the April minutes as submitted.
- Dave Mowry Moved
- Marcia Hille Seconded
- There were no objections.
- April minutes were approved and adopted by a quorum of 14 members.
- Comments: Karen James asked if old business from the minutes would be reviewed.

**Program Updates:**

- **Additions:**
  - Naomi Hunsaker is the new Addictions Supervisor and will attend these meetings to provide updates as Kathy Prenevost retires next week.
  - Kathy talked about the reduction in Measure 110 funding. The reduction in funding and the change to the allocation calculation will result in Washington County receiving less funds for the BHRN programming. The allocation change was designed to better fund the more rural counties. The Addictions program will provide further updates as they get more information. The county has already placed legislative priority around this topic to troubleshoot the funding change. This change will be in affect in the next funding cycle.
  - Kathy reported that the BHRN continues to be an active group with 30-35 providers attending the twice monthly meeting. The county allows all providers to attend and contribute regardless of whether they receive Measure 110 funding.

- Construction has begun on both CATT locations. The Hillsboro location is projected to open in May of 2025 with Beaverton projected to open in December of 2025. The Beaverton Intensive Services building, serviced by CODA, will likely roll out all services in a reduced capacity versus rolling out each service separately.
  - Naloxone kits are being distributed to community providers. The county distribution will be transferred to Project Red starting in August.
- **Community Mental Health Program:**
    - Ian reported that the county is in negotiations with the Oregon Health Authority on the next round of contracting. They are hoping for a revamp in how the contracts are structured to reduce the service elements from 30 to under 7. Each of the service elements has reporting requirements which are felt by both the county and providers. Reducing the reporting requirements will allow for more flexibility. Reporting requirements likely stems from federal reporting imposed on the State of Oregon. The draft of the new contract proposal should be ready for submission by the end of this year.
    - Aid and Assist: The program has grown to 90 individuals in community restoration. The funding award for 2024 does not cover the \$1,000,000 needed for that program. The program is adding additional staff to support the growing caseload. There is a community navigation pilot that can serve 15 individuals.
      - There was a question as to whether the 7-day requirement was being met with Aid and Assist services. Ian will check with Chance Wooley, the supervisor of that program, for more information.
    - Behavioral Health recently met with the Harkins House director to discuss what needs they may have. Harkins House is a shelter for youth who have committed serious crimes and is an alternative to being held in detention. There is capacity to serve 14 individuals. They have seen an increase in serious mental health symptoms that is requiring the youth to be returned to detention. The goal is to have MRSS (Mobile Response Stabilization Services) staff work with the individuals at Harkins House to decrease the incidence of returning to detention. Youth must agree to the Harkins House option to qualify. The juvenile department reports seeing a decrease in the age of offenders and an increase in assaultive behaviors.
- **Oregon Health Plan/CCOs**
    - Nick attending a meeting about the CCO 3.0 rollout. There is hope that there will be some ability to influence how it will be implemented.
    - Medicaid Waiver Updates: Housing support will be added in November of this year. There will be a new housing staff through a partnership with HealthShare and Trillium. This group would request that a supported housing staff attend the BHC meetings as soon as possible. County staff will reach out to a member of the supported housing team. There is no immediate update for the OHP coverage for individuals that are incarcerated, but there was some announcement at the state and more information to come. The county has a jail care coordinator position that is up and running for linkage and connection to services as they are released including getting re-connected to Oregon Health Plan.
- **BH Division Budget Process**
    - The proposal for safety net services was well received. Over 50% of individuals seeking services through Hawthorn were CCO members and they are willing to ensure there is adequate funding for those services. We are asking for an increase in funding for the following areas:

- Crisis Line
- Billing specialist for crisis services
- CATT operating expenses
- Bilingual WRAP coordinator
- With these additional staff hires and funding, the county would reach appropriate staffing for the community needs.

### **Member Updates/Sharing:**

- Sally reported attending the one day Homeless Connect event at Sunset Church and commented that most of the vendors/tables were dedicated to addictions and were lacking mental health resources. There was discussion about the long-standing effort to combine addictions and mental health supports although funding streams and regulations can cause barriers to this process. Other barriers stem from difficulty finding staff who are dually credentialed and reluctance of staff to risk safety to provide services in some community settings. The goal at the county is to have mental health and addictions staff working as collaboratively as possible.
- Marcia reported that Sequoia has opened its 5<sup>th</sup> residential treatment home near St Vincents hospital. A third-party entity assesses and assigns levels of care to residents at the home and that determines reimbursement for the agency. It is open to adults with severe and persistent mental illness and entry is prioritized via the following criteria:
  1. Oregon State Hospital Discharges
  2. Transfers from Acute Care Settings
  3. Community referrals of individuals with acute needs
- It was requested that a member of DAVS be invited to the ongoing BHC meeting.
- It was confirmed that the Behavioral Health 101 training was done for new members and current members would like to be notified when those are offered in the future.

### **Deflection Presentation:**

- Marni Kuyl-Assistant County Administrator presented information on the upcoming deflection program (see attached PowerPoint presentation).
- Comments/Questions about the presentation:
  - Is prevention activity included? There is no additional funding towards prevention at this time.
  - There will be collaboration with the BHRN and BHRN providers during this process including cultural and linguistically staffed agencies.
  - Most providers have capacity for outpatient services, but there is still a shortage of residential treatment.
  - Abstinence is not a requirement to be successful in the program.
  - Peer services could be provided as late as the court arraignment date to work with the individual to agree to the deflection program.
  - The hiring committee for the coordinator consisted of members of behavioral health, law enforcement, and legal departments. An offer has been made for a permanent program coordinator. They are just awaiting a response. This coordinator will report to Naomi in behavioral health.
  - Are individuals in the Aid and Assist program eligible for this? It would depend on their charges, but Chance Wooley might have more information.
  - The biggest hurdles are always funding and workforce.
  - Daily operation will consist of work between the coordinator, behavioral health, sheriffs' department, district attorney, and community corrections. The police lieutenant will be responsible for supporting officers through this new process and learning from their experiences.

- There was a question about involvement and coordination with the emergency departments. Individuals will not be excluded from deflection if they need to be taken to the emergency department at the time of citation.
- It was discussed that this program isn't designed to solve all addiction issues in the community but is focused on one specific process. And individuals must be willing and able to participate.
- What is considered a violent felony (as this can disqualify someone from deflection)? This would likely include domestic violence, assaults, murder, and other person to person crimes. These individuals would be considered a danger to the community.
- There will be two enhanced deflection programs with the City of Hillsboro and City of Beaverton bike teams. These teams are already in the community and have relationships with the individuals who will likely be a part of this program.
- There has been outreach to community stakeholders, some of which include the BHRN, Advisory Council on Racial Equity, and Latino Policy Committee. Other invites have also been extended.
- Will the PSCC (Public Safety Coordination Council) work with the deflection program? The PSCC will be informed of the process and will likely act as an advocacy arm.

**Member Absences and Officer Nominations Follow UP-Consider Removing Members per Article V, section 3B:**

- Marni Kuyl-Assistant County Administrator discussed the bylaws related to membership and meeting attendance. She discussed attendance records for acting chair Colin McCoy and member Steven Youngs. She discussed the dates for unexcused absences for each of the listed.
- **MOTION:** To introduce a vote to remove Colin McCoy from the chair position and from membership to the council at the August 28<sup>th</sup> meeting
  - Marcia Hille Moved
  - Jennifer Yonkers Seconded
  - There were no objections.
  - The motion passed by a quorum of 14 members.
- **MOTION:** To open the floor for nominees for co-chair.
  - Carol Greenough Moved
  - Mary Monnat Seconded
  - There were no objections
  - The motion passed by a quorum of 14 members.
  - An email will be sent to the group regarding interest in the co-chair position and the voting process at the August meeting.

**Meeting Wrap Up:**

- There was a request for a legislative update at the next meeting.

**The meeting was adjourned at 10:58a.m.**

**Minutes respectfully submitted by Heather Owens.**