LARIMER COUNTY | BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES

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MINUTES

LARIMER COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE & CONSUMER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Date: February 14, 2022
Time: 8:30-10:30am
Location: Zoom Webinar
Contact: Laurie Stolen, Behavioral Health Services Director
Ryan Barstow, Behavioral Health Business Operations Coordinator

TAC Participants:

Whitney Bennett-Clear, Stephanie Booco, Lory Clukey, Seth Forwood, Monica Foster, Donna Goldstrom, Kaycee Headrick, Tyrell Hirchert, Radhwan Jubair, Kelsey Lyon, Stephanie Madsen-Pixler, Patrice Marqui, Rachel Olsen, Carol Plock, Michael Ruttenberg, Lyn Sadler

CAC Participants:

Karen Barrett, Amber Bass, Sarah McKeen, Savannah Naffziger, Wendy Stine, Mary Beth Swanson, Ash Tumbleson, Silen Wellington

TAC Absent:

Diane Allen, Annette Brown, Angela De Los Santos, Tom Gonzales, Nathan Hall, Cheryl Jacobs, Kyle McPherson, Heather O'Hayre, Laura Schwartz, Celeste Simmons, Nick Verni-Lau

CAC Absent:

Allen Anderson, Madison Krumwiede, Steve Pietrafeso, Emily Potts, Carri Ratazzi

CALL TO ORDER – 8:32 a.m.

STANDING AGENDA ITEMS

1. Laurie Stolen called the meeting to order and asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the TAC's January 10, 2022 meeting. Rachel Olsen made the motion, seconded by Donna Goldstrom; the motion was approved unanimously. Laurie then asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the CAC's January 24, 2022 meeting. Karen Barrett made the motion, seconded by Ash Tumbleson; the motion was approved unanimously.

DISCUSSION/DECISIONS

1. Laurie Stolen completed a brief level setting for the Advisory Groups explaining that the TAC and CAC both had the same discussion items on their January meeting agendas but due to time constraints in those meetings a few items were being carried forward to this meeting. These items include:
    a. The Care Coordination Subcommittee, formed by the TAC in the January meeting. The subcommittee convened last month and will meet again on 2/24/22 before bringing their final recommendations for the Care Coordination targeted projects to the next combined meeting on 3/14/22.
    b. The proposal of changing the Gary A. Darling (GAD) grant from a grant awarded to just one recipient, to a targeted project (at the intersection between Behavioral Health and Criminal Justice) with multiple grants awarded, the best of which would be nominated to receive the recognition of the GAD designation. The TAC already discussed this idea in their January meeting and voiced support for it but the CAC didn't get a chance. Several CAC members spoke up and voiced their support for this change as well and other feedback included a desire to make these grants a multi-year award. Laurie reviewed the work currently in progress to support multi-year funding and the available options to implement this model in the future. Members discussed several of the issues involved and decided the best course of action for the time being is to form a Multi-year funding subcommittee to discuss the issue further.
        i. The following members volunteered to work on the subcommittee: Stephanie Booco, Kaycee Headrick, Rachel Olsen, Michael Ruttenberg, Mary Beth Swanson, Radhwan Jubair, Patrice Marqui, Kelsey Lyon, Kyle McPherson (who requested it after the meeting via email). Ryan Barstow will follow up with these members to schedule a time to meet. Laurie said that after the subcommittee meets, it will be determined if this is something that could be implemented for 2022 and if there are still too many outstanding questions, we can continue to discuss further and implement next year.
    c. Modifying the language of the youth targeted project - "Prevention education and early intervention for vulnerable youth". Laurie said that project drew a lot of applications last year and there was a broad range of programming offered within that target. So, it may be helpful to be more specific in the language used, or even define age groups in the target to drive applications toward fundable programming

that addresses the most critical gaps in youth services in our community. Discussion points included:

i. a request to see the breakdown of last years youth projects, specifically the breakdown between work geared towards prevention or intervention and be able to more clearly identify gaps in programming
ii. the importance of defining the youth age range because if that age starts at Kindergarten, we're missing an essential time period for early intervention
iii. something repeatedly identified as an existing need by the newly formed Youth Advisory Council is peer support. Kelsey Lyon also volunteered to reconvene the Youth subcommittee formed by the TAC last year along with anyone else who'd like to join, in order to facilitate this conversation.
    1. The following members volunteered to work on this subcommittee: Rachel Olsen, Mary Beth Swanson, Silen Wellington, Kaycee Headrick, Tyrell Hirchert. Ryan Barstow will follow up with these members to schedule a time to meet.
iv. separating Youth from early childhood as well as prioritizing 19 - 24 year olds not in the university system
v. separating intervention from prevention
vi. aligning funding with the findings of the CHNA and focus on data driven programming based on their info, or create a community model of care based on another model
vii. the current need for mental health consequences of COVID beginning very early in development
viii. youth aging out of the foster care system
ix. intervention for early childhood needs to take a multi-generational approach because it's really about working with families and it doesn't always get designated the priority it needs because it's not as much of a crisis in the community until these kids become school age so it's vital to focus on the group under age 8
x. concerns over making applicants self select an age range - could be done on reviewer side
xi. programming needs are being community driven
xii. potential for ARPA funds to help fill gaps and how those funds are likely to be used

2. Laurie then started a discussion to review and seek feedback on the BHS team's language modification draft of the remaining targeted projects to drive towards the greatest impact. The Care Coordination project will be set aside for the time being while the subcommittee finalizes their work on it. Laurie asked whether the Behavioral Health Workforce target is still a priority and members strongly believe it is. According to members, keys for this project moving forward include encouraging organizations and finding a way to fund their current employee's professional growth within their own organizations. As well as finding a path forward in funding paid internships for graduate students, especially those

who want to stay in Larimer County. There's also especially a need for BIPOC workforce development and ensuring trauma-informed practice training and developments get to the practitioners who need it, particularly the criminal justice system. Members also strongly agreed that it's essential to provide competitive salaries for behavioral health practitioners.

a. Laurie discussed how we can ensure quality of care as well as DEI as part of the application process. Feedback from members included:
    i. quality of care is best assessed via use of evidence based practice and program evaluation when screening applications
    ii. using funding for an advocate for legislative change on the state level to help push for these systemic changes
    iii. cautiousness around the importance and use of the "licensure and certification" due to cultural relevance for non-white communities
    iv. support for advocating for change where possible but there's a necessity for licensure and certification requirements
b. Laurie said the BHS team will redraft a slide with the language modifications for the targeted projects using all the input and feedback received today and it will be brought to the next meeting for everyone to finalize. Before doing so, Laurie wanted to make sure we have the right targets to fund this year. Members shared that:
    i. first responders should be included in target #3 'Alternatives to Criminal Justice involvement'
    ii. make peer support and peer programming it's own target
    iii. incorporate peer support in the workforce development target
    iv. include step down programs (like recovery housing) in the non-traditional settings target - other feedback included that our behavioral health system isn't built out for it and not sure if we have sustainable funding for it
    v. make the care coordination target's description more specific to include those individuals requiring recovery housing and the possibility of using ARPA dollars for this type of support
c. Laurie wrapped up the language modification discussion by asking if anyone wanted a target added or if we could capture it all with refinements to the language and descriptions used. Several members agreed we have the right targets and can capture everything with language modifications.

3. Laurie asked about prioritizing the targets in a certain order when making funding decisions, and whether responsive grants should still be included. Members feedback indicated that the responsive grants should be kept and there was consensus that there's not a need to prioritize the projects but rather to aim for a balanced portfolio.
4. Laurie asked whether the committees would approve keeping the same targeted projects (with necessary language modifications annually) for 2 more grant cycles through the end of Phase 1 of the BHS initiative. Silence as consent, members agreed with that strategy.

5. Laurie asked for member feedback on data gathering and reporting for grantees and discussed the challenge of trying to cull meaningful aggregate data from grantees when it's reported so many different ways. This is becoming a more pressing need with Phase 2 of the initiative approaching and the importance of being able to make data driven decisions as a result. What can we do in the community with our funding partners to help with system building to standardize outcome measures and ease the process of data reporting? Feedback included:
    a. examine what other communities are doing to utilize best practices
    b. provide technical assistance/workshops for grantees
    c. dedicate part of grant funds via line item for data collection support, allow grantee to free up staff time to work on it
    d. partner with CSU or another university to utilize their resources and expertise
    e. concern over standardizing outcome measurements due to the work being done in alternative areas
    f. Kim Priddy is forming a cohort of 2021 grantees and anyone interested in joining the discussion on data gathering efforts can contact her at priddykn@co.larimer.co.us
6. Laurie asked for member feedback on the need for an open/ongoing small grant program and if so, what the requirements would need to be. The intention of this type of program is to have a reserve of money that could fund issues or projects that come up throughout the year for grantees, fund smaller innovative projects, or even to provide copays/deductibles for individuals facing financial or insurance barriers. Although some members expressed a strong need for a small grant program, there was also hesitation as a lot of the needs discussed required much larger funding. As a consensus wasn't reached and due to time constraints, Laurie suggested we table this conversation so that it can be continued in the future.
7. After proposing a Chair/Vice - Chair model to the TAC in the January meeting, Donna Goldstrom reached out to Laurie and volunteered to serve as the TAC Chair if the committee wanted to move forward with the idea. So, Laurie reopened the topic for discussion. Stephanie Booco also volunteered to serve in either the Chair or Vice - Chair positions. Carol Plock made a motion to appoint Donna Goldstrom as Chair and Stephanie Booco as Vice - Chair and Rachel Olsen seconded; the motion was voted on and approved unanimously. Ryan Barstow will connect with Donna and Stephanie to schedule agenda planning meetings.
8. Before adjourning the meeting Laurie asked if members would like to meet in person for the BHPC meeting in April where work session recommendations would be presented. Due to the uncertainty of COVID and the size of the meeting in April, this decision will be made at the next joint TAC/CAC meeting in March.

The next meeting will be held virtually on March 14, 2022.

ADJOURN – 10:34 a.m.