

Minutes

LARIMER COUNTY CONSUMER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Date: January 29, 2024
Time: 8:30-10:30 a.m.
Location: Sparrow & Goldfinch Rooms 2260 W. Trilby Rd. Fort Collins, CO 80526 & [Zoom](#)
Contact: Laura Walker, Human and Economic Health Director
Ryan Barstow, Behavioral Health Business Operations Coordinator

Participants: Karen Barrett, Michael Ellis, Joshua Fuller, Glenda Kastle, Madison Krumwiede, Sarah McKeen, Hans Pearson, Amber Sullivan, Mary Beth Swanson, Silen Wellington

Absent: Cedric Clark, Mary Maldonado, Steve Pietrafeso, Emily Potts, Laura Whitney

CALL TO ORDER – 8:35 a.m.

STANDING AGENDA ITEMS

1. BHS Facility Update - Laura Walker gave everyone a brief update on the Acute Care Facility at Longview. Since opening, over 500 people have been served, and approximately 75% of those individuals were walk-ins. Despite the large volume seen so far, there will likely be an increase in the number of referrals from emergency departments and emergency responders soon. In addition to launching services for the Longview Facility on 12/2, SummitStone Health Providers also switched to a new electronic health record, EPIC, the same day. The soft launch approach was to allow SHP more capacity to get staffing patterns worked out, ensure all new staff are onboarded, etc. There are now 24 inpatient beds open, 16 for crisis stabilization, and 8 for withdrawal management. Those beds have remained at about 90% full since opening. The amount of people seen so far validates the anticipated need in the community. Laura also shared that the job posting to refill the Behavioral Health Services Director position closed a week ago and preliminary interviews will be completed later this week

with a community presentation being completed by finalists on 2/15/24. More information about this opportunity to attend presentations will be forthcoming.

DISCUSSION/DECISIONS

1. Introductions - individuals present introduced themselves by sharing their name and favorite movie.
2. Taylor Kelley presented a summary of the 14 recommendations that came out of the second iteration of the Community Master Plan (CMP), [available here](#). There is also a 2-page [executive summary](#) of the findings as well as the [full version](#) available. Spanish versions are also available of both the [executive summary](#) and the [full version](#). The first iteration of the Community Master Plan was essential in guiding Phase 1 of the BH initiative, and the BHS department plans to look at this data every 5 years, see where gaps and challenges still exist in our community, how we can build on progress, and address other BH situations that may arise. For this 2.0 iteration of the CMP, BHS collaborated with the Colorado Health Institute (CHI), a nonprofit mission-driven research and consulting group. The BHS department commissioned this report with support and help from an executive sponsor team composed of the Health District of Northern Larimer County and SummitStone Health Partners, as well as a guidance team made up of about 10 - 12 individuals throughout the continuum of care who brought their professional expertise to the table. After Taylor presented the overview of the 14 recommendations, she led a discussion about the findings and answered member's questions. Commentary included the following:

Availability of youth services in the community:

- a. difficult to find care for adolescents, even over age 12
- b. residential treatment options are all out-of-state
- c. kids are often involved in programs longer than they should because there aren't a lot of options to transition to
- d. families don't have the capacity to search for, and get to, the few available resources
- e. need for youth services is growing
- f. LC is tracking 2 bills in the current legislative session and took support positions on (HB-1038 [High Acuity Needs] & SB-059 [System of Care])

Permanent Supportive Housing issues:

- a. PSH resources don't have BH focus/education on basic skills so no real transition from unhoused to housed, no rehabilitation
- b. housing first principle is common but it's more than that and further support is needed

Uninsured or underinsured issues:

- a. # of ppl uninsured or underinsured is a big issue too, maybe have a fund so that ppl can access that resource
- b. huge problem for BH concerns but also larger than that it's a community issue, when ppl can't afford to be healthy that bleeds into housing costs, etc.

Underserved communities:

- a. existing resources for underserved communities are too few and underfunded

3. Laura discussed the role of the BHS advisory groups in the management of operations of the Longview Acute Care Facility. She's had several questions as the Acute Care Facility has come online and services have begun about what role the three BHS advisory groups should play in its operations. This is a major contract between Larimer County and SummitStone Health Partners for these services and it's funded by tax dollars. As such, we have significant obligations for transparency and quality assurance. Since the BHS advisory groups are seated by and serve at the discretion of the Board of County Commissioners, the advisory groups cannot act as oversight groups or be used as primary lines of feedback. That said, Laura will make sure that both she and the new BHS Director will make themselves available for any feedback from the BHS advisory groups. So, Laura wanted to let the group know that 2 oversight committees are being developed jointly between Larimer County, SummitStone Health Partners, and consumers, to specifically oversee operations of the building. This will allow the opportunity for all parties to share information and weigh in equally. To be clear, neither committee will be a decision-making committee. There will be both a quality and finance oversight committee that will be responsible for getting data out to the public and Larimer County as the contract holders to ensure both transparency and accountability. Reports out from those groups probably won't happen more than once per quarter but that could change over time. The BHS advisory groups will get advance notice of those reports coming out so we are as transparent as possible and allow the advisory groups to provide feedback to make sure we're not missing something. The BoCC will be seeing that separately as well. Laura said the hope is to have both groups seated by March '24 and that both will have their first meetings before the end of the quarter. Laura also wanted to let members know that there's a designated seat on the quality committee for a CAC member to join (more information on the invite [here](#)). A preliminary draft of the group charter, or at minimum, roles and responsibilities of members will be shared for discussion at the 2/12/24 meeting at which point members can decide if they're interested and the group can nominate a member to join the quality committee.
4. Jessica Plummer led a discussion of the 2024 TAC & CAC work product for the Impact Fund Grant Program, [slides available here](#). These groups will meet independently 3 times between January - March to review data and 2021 grant outcomes, recommend any necessary changes to the grant program, and prioritize long-term funding strategies. Recommendations will then be presented to the BHPC at the 4/1/24 meeting.
5. Members discussed nominations for the CAC Chair & Vice-Chair positions for 2024. Sarah McKeen volunteered to serve as Chair and Amber Sullivan volunteered to serve as Vice-Chair. After the meeting concluded feedback was received from a committee member that since a formal vote never occurred for these positions and some members may not have felt comfortable speaking up. As a result, a request was made to move the opportunity to nominate members offline and continue to seek additional nominations, at which point a formal vote can be conducted at the 2/12/24 meeting.
6. Ryan Barstow addressed member questions regarding appointments of CAC seats including term length, application details, and the screening process.

The next CAC meeting will be held via Zoom on 2/12/24 at 9:30 a.m.

ADJOURN – 10:20 a.m.