

Minutes

LARIMER COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH POLICY COUNCIL

Date: April 1, 2024
Time: 8:00-10:00 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:

Nicole Armstrong, Karen Barrett, Erin Black, Sierra Black, Bianca Doherty, Michael Ellis, Seth Forwood, Amber Franzel, Joshua Fuller, Kelly Glick, Donna Goldstrom, Susan Gutowsky, Erin Hadlow, William Karspeck, Glenda Kastle, Wendy Koenig, Andrea Linafelter, Sarah McKeen, Kyle McPherson, Hans Pearson, Emily Potts, Rachel Olsen, Michael Ruttenberg, Commissioner Shadduck-McNally, Amber Sullivan, David Wiegand, Barry Wilson

Attendees:

Beth Yonce

Absent:

Cedric Clark, Brian Ferrans, Jim Fox, Tom Gonzales, Jarah Grashorn, Isabel Gwilliam, Cheryl Jacobs, Radhwan Jubair, Madison Krumwiede, Lisa Laake, Mary Maldonado, Clark McCoy, Heather O'Hayre, Steve Pietrafeso, Mary Beth Swanson, Silen Wellington, Laura Whitney

CALL TO ORDER – 8:06 a.m.

COMMISSIONER REMARKS

1. Commissioner Shadduck-McNally called the meeting to order, introduced herself, and thanked everyone for their attendance. The Commissioner shared that Laura Walker has been out to several municipalities to present the 2nd iteration of the Community Master Plan and the reception has been good. The BoCC is moving forward with its Strategic Plan which includes several behavioral health and climate action items integrated into

those plans. She also shared that she's been invited by Pew Charitable Trusts to a roundtable for behavioral health as Larimer is being held up as an exemplar.

STANDING AGENDA ITEMS

1. Commissioner Jody Shadduck-McNally requested a motion to approve the January 8, 2024, BHPC meeting minutes. Seth Forwood made the motion, seconded by Will Karspeck; the motion was approved unanimously.
2. Donna Goldstrom requested a motion to approve the March 18, 2024, TAC meeting minutes, Kyle McPherson made the motion, no opposed, and the motion was approved unanimously.
3. Sarah McKeen asked for a motion to approve the March 18, 2024, CAC meeting minutes, Amber made the motion, no opposed, and the motion was approved unanimously.
4. Commissioner Shadduck-McNally recognized Estes Park Mayor and Behavioral Health Policy Council member, Wendy Koenig, for serving on the committee. Wendy is retiring as Mayor and not seeking re-election. Wendy has been a great advocate and supporter of behavioral health in the community and her work serving on the Policy Council is greatly appreciated, thank you Wendy!

DISCUSSION/DECISIONS

1. TAC Chair Donna Goldstrom and CAC Chair Sarah McKeen presented their committees Jan. - Mar. work product, and recommendations for the 2024 Impact Fund Grant Program, [slides available here](#). Recommendations for 2024 include: keeping targeted project areas the same (Youth Services, Care Coordination, Services in Diverse Settings, Alternatives and Interventions in Criminal Justice, Workforce Expansion & Support, and System Integration), assessing secondary and tertiary impact areas, setting a goal target to prioritize funding towards the targeted project areas (suggested goal target is 70% or more). Sarah asked members to consider how this grant funding has directly impacted their work or constituents, or how they anticipate it impacting them. Sarah led the discussion by giving an example of how it's impacted her work at the Boys & Girls Clubs of Larimer County, an Impact Fund grant recipient. Their grant was awarded to implement SEL (social and emotional learning) programs at their clubs across the county. Sarah shared that as a result, they're seeing drastic changes in not only kids' ability to recognize and name their emotions but also detail what their response will be when experiencing a moment of strong emotions. Other members shared the impacts they're seeing from the grant program in people's success with drug courts and workplace classes through increased MAT therapies, work to expand outreach to those who may be unhoused through crisis intervention, increased social connectedness with youth, successes of the Co-responder program, outreach to veterans to connect them with services, etc. Commissioner Shadduck-McNally asked Donna, Sarah, and Jessica Plummer to speak to conversations the TAC and CAC had around the prioritization of health equity as evaluation criteria. Although it's currently part of the application and evaluation process, the groups discussed the possibility of prioritizing that criterion and weighing it more heavily against others. Ultimately the committees decided that health equity is difficult to assess and measure consistently and that it requires further discussion

and baseline data to be more intentional about it. As a result, it will potentially be a focus for next year or longer-term funding to establish some more specific standards.

Commissioner Shadduck-McNally asked for a motion to approve the 2024 Impact Fund Grant Program recommendations as presented to forward to the Larimer County Board of County Commissioners for approval. Wendy Koenig made the motion, seconded by Erin Black; the motion was approved unanimously.

2. Commissioner Shadduck-McNally presented a brief update on the ROAC detailing the council's background and membership. She spoke about some of the initiatives that funding has gone to including the Crisis Youth Intervention team, (a unit in the LCSO Co-responder program), the Connect Effect (a program to educate kids on fentanyl and opiate use), and a harm reduction program through CSU for all 3 Larimer school districts. They've also been focusing on sober living and prevention and beginning to look into combining the data they're receiving with the community health improvement dashboard through the Health Department to prevent duplication of efforts. The Commissioner also shared that the state-wide Colorado Opioid Abatement Conference, will be held at the Loveland Embassy Suites this year on September 30th, followed by the Rethinking Addiction event on 10/1.
3. Erin Black presented a brief update on the Behavioral Health Planning and Advisory Council. This council was delayed throughout COVID, so they've recently been focused on bylaw updates, training, increasing membership, etc. Based on a block grant requirement from SAMHSA, a minimum of 51% of the council's members need to have lived experience. The [Bill Dossier link](#) included in the agenda may already be out of date as there is a long going on in legislation with BH-focused bills. Erin discussed a few of the bills on the dossier around the topics of substance abuse, prevention, workforce violence, and reporting holds. Other updates included [Dannette R. Smith](#) being appointed as BHA Commissioner, the CO Attorney General looking to hire a [Grant Specialist](#), and the BHA's [Children and Youth BH Implementation Plan](#) is out so anyone who works in that space is encouraged to review it. Also, if you know anyone with lived experience that may be interested in joining the council please refer them [here](#) for more information and an application to join.
4. Jennifer Wolfe-Kimbell shared an update on the proclamation to declare May as Mental Health Awareness Month. BHS brings a proclamation to the Board of County Commissioners each year to declare May as Mental Health Awareness Month and as in years past, a template is available for representatives to take to their own Town Boards or City Councils to have it formally adopted as well. That template is available [here in .pdf](#) and [here in .docx](#) formats. BHS will go before the Larimer Board of County Commissioners on April 30th at an Admin Matters meeting at 9 am to have the proclamation adopted. Additionally, on May 7th, SummitStone Health Partners will be going before Fort Collins City Council at 4:50 pm and Loveland City Council at 5:45 pm to have the proclamation adopted.
5. Jennifer shared that the 2023 Behavioral Health Services Annual Report is now available. In addition to the report being included with the meeting agenda, [links are on the BHS website](#) and both an English and Spanish version are being printed and available by request.
6. Ryan Barstow presented the proposed [BHPC Bylaw updates](#). Commissioner Shadduck-McNally shared some background on the County policy updates which were

made after the Board of County Commissioners reviewed the policy and created a code of conduct to try and ensure consistency between Boards. Commissioner Shadduck-McNally called the first proposed change (III.C.) into question due to the language used. The change states “The Board of County Commissioners will then review and make appointments to the advisory council.” However, that change was intended to align the advisory group's appointment process with the rest of the BoCC’s Boards and Commissions wherein the Commissioner Liaison is responsible for review and appointments. Since the language for that change isn’t clear (whether it’s the responsibility of the Board as a whole or the Commissioner Liaison), Commissioner Shadduck-McNally wants to have the County Attorney review the language first, before approving that change. As a result, Seth Forwood made a motion to accept the proposed bylaw changes, on the condition that the County Attorney reviews and approves the language for the change to III.C. or, corrects the language to align with the intent of the change (Commissioner Liaison instead of BoCC), seconded by Erin Black; the motion was approved unanimously.

The next BHPC meeting will be held at 2260 W. Trilby Rd. on August 19th, 2024.

ADJOURN – 9:18 a.m.