

LARIMER COUNTY | BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES

2260 W. Trilby Rd., Fort Collins, Colorado 80526, 970.498.7126, Larimer.org

MINUTES

LARIMER COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH POLICY COUNCIL

Date: January 13, 2025
Time: 8:00 - 10:00am
Location: 2260 W. Trilby Rd. Fort Collins, 80526 & Zoom Webinar
Contact: Amy Martonis, Director Behavioral Health Services

Participants:

Sierra Black, Seth Forwood, Susan Gutowsky, Gary Hall, Bill Jenkins, Will Karspeck, Dee Anne Menzies, Chad Morris, Commissioner Shadduck-McNally, Ron Steinbach, David Wiegand

Absent:

Erin Black, Jarah Grashorn, Isabel Gwilliam

Attendees:

Laura Walker

CALL TO ORDER – 8:07 a.m.

COMMISSIONER REMARKS

1. Commissioner Shadduck-McNally called the meeting to order and asked for everyone to complete a brief introduction. Commissioner Shadduck-McNally took a moment to celebrate that it's been a full year since Longview opened. There is a celebratory event being planned likely around March/April, members will get advanced notice of dates and details as soon as it's available. Commissioner Shadduck-McNally shared that the County Commissioners approved the Larimer County budget in December, and looking around the state, needs continue to increase around behavioral health and changes are happening at the Behavioral Health Administration. A lot is going on at the state level with intensive high acuity, youth, etc. with legislation addressing those needs being looked at. Updates will be shared with the Council as things progress.

ACTION ITEMS/DECISIONS

1. Commissioner Shadduck-McNally asked for a motion to approve the 12/2/2024 combined BHPC, TAC, & CAC meeting minutes. Ron Steinbach motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Susan Gutowsky; the minutes were approved unanimously.
2. Commissioner Shadduck-McNally asked for Chair & Vice Chair nominations for 2025. Gary Hall nominated Commissioner Shadduck-McNally to serve as Chair of the BHPC, seconded by David Wiegand; the reappointment of the Commissioner was approved unanimously. Susan Gutowsky nominated Seth Forwood to serve as Vice Chair of the BHPC, seconded by David Wiegand; the reappointment of Seth was approved unanimously.
3. Jessica discussed the BHPC '[Code of Ethics](#)' from the bylaws. She reminded members to recuse themselves from discussions and votes when a potential conflict of interest exists. In practice that also means stepping out of the room during a vote if a conflict exists so as not to exert influence, or the appearance of influence, over a decision. Please refer to the bylaws for more specific information. Also, due to the regulations of open meeting laws, members were reminded not to "Reply All" to BHPC emails.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Madeline Novey discussed the strategic alignment of Behavioral Health Services and what informs BHS work using this [handout](#). Madeline discussed how BHS work is data-driven and informed by what is happening at the National, State, and County levels as well as discussing some examples of various initiatives in progress. This led members to engage in a detailed conversation around the development of predictive models for overdose and suicide prevention and various data-sharing models/initiatives that could serve to streamline work across the continuum of care.
2. Madeline discussed how part of her role on the BHS team is to [tell the story](#) of the BHS initiative, the work being completed, and keeping our community informed on this work. Madeline emphasized the community's commitment to supporting each other through voting to approve this sales tax-funded initiative. Since the tax was implemented, over \$100 million has been generated, funding 72 programs across the county that serve individuals with various needs. Madeline's goal is to demonstrate the positive impact of this funding and went on to discuss the communication strategy for BHS. This strategy aims to ensure that people know where their tax dollars are going and the services available to them, including resources for crisis support. Madeline outlined the ongoing effort to refine messaging and outreach methods to increase engagement and inform the public about the continued success of the tax-funded initiatives. Madeline also highlighted the role of BHPC members as ambassadors within the community to spread awareness and encourage participation in the grant programs. Sharing resources is part of that and being able to continue to communicate that to everyone is critically important. As a result, Madeline put together a BHPC toolkit that details initial [talking points](#) for members to use. Members discussed alternatives to sharing this information with municipalities including coordinating with their own communications staff or having

Amy and Madeline attend City Council and Town Board meetings to present this information in coordination with the timing of the Longview celebration/addition of youth services to the facility.

3. Jessica Plummer presented an update on [TAC & CAC work product](#) for Spring '25. Jessica started by reviewing an overview of their work to date. This began with the TAC being established in 2019 with \$1 million allocated in funding for the Impact Fund Grant Program. The CAC was established in 2020 with an allocation increase for the IFGP of \$2.5 million. Targeted projects were identified and established in 2021 along with the revision of the Gary A. Darling Award to an honorary distinction. In 2022 the TAC & CAC reviewed Targeted Projects, added goals/strategies, and another allocation increase for the program occurred at \$2.8 million. 2023 work included a review of the Results Based Accountability framework for each target area. In 2024 a recommendation was implemented to set a 70% funding goal for the Targeted Projects and long-term funding strategies while leaving funding available for community response needs that may be outside of those project areas. In 2025 the TAC & CAC work will be focusing on a multi-year funding framework to implement in 2026, as well as providing feedback on the year's process and framework for the IFGP. By supporting long-term funding models, we can not only fund individual organization's work but also encourage collaboration and system building to create as big of an impact in our community as possible. Jessica then provided a brief overview of the timeline for the TAC & CAC work product including informing County leadership, the BHPC, and the final approval by County Commissioners. Commissioner Shadduck-McNally concluded the discussion by reiterating the impact and innovation occurring because of this funding. The program is continuously being improved while ensuring we're supporting grantees, encouraging collaboration, and leveraging resources.
4. Commissioner Shadduck-McNally requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Susan Gutowsky made the motion, seconded by Seth Forwood; the motion was approved unanimously.

ADJOURN – 9:35 a.m.

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