

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: August 11, 2025
Time: 8:00 - 10:00 am
Location: 2260 W. Trilby Rd. Fort Collins, 80526 & Zoom Webinar
Contact: Amy Martonis, Behavioral Health Services Director

Participants:

Seth Forwood, Jarah Grashorn, Susan Gutowsky, Gary Hall, Bill Jenkins, Dee Anne Menzies, Chad Morris, Commissioner Shadduck-McNally, Ron Steinbach, David Wiegand

Absent:

Sierra Black, Isabel Gwilliam, Will Karspeck

Attendees:

Donald Keck, Laura Walker

CALL TO ORDER – 8:09 a.m.

COMMISSIONER REMARKS

1. Commissioner Shadduck-McNally called the meeting to order and asked the group if they'd support sending thank-you notes, as a council, to grant applicant reviewers. These individuals volunteered their time to review grant applications and these notes would serve as a gesture of appreciation for their efforts. Members agreed that they'd like to do so, and Amy Martonis will follow up on that effort. Commissioner Shadduck-McNally also shared a brief update on the recent successful Larimer County Fair and Rodeo, which broke records with 2,000 pancake breakfasts served and 27,000 attendees on Sunday alone. There were 2 sold-out nights of the rodeo on Sunday and Monday, and almost again on Tuesday.

ACTION ITEMS/DECISIONS

1. Commissioner Shadduck-McNally asked for a motion to approve the [4/7/25 BHPC meeting minutes](#). Susan Gutowsky motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Bill Jenkins; the minutes were approved unanimously.
2. Jessica Plummer presented [recommendations](#) for the 2025 Impact Fund Grant Program, reviewing the evaluation process for grant applications, including changes for 2025, application data and trends, and funding recommendations by award type. Jessica explained the streamlined renewal process for organizations with a history of successful grants and highlighted budget adjustments, such as reducing the cap from \$250,000 to \$100,000. The team discussed the rigorous review process, including initial, external, and executive reviews, and emphasized the importance of transparency and accountability. Questions were raised about reviewer consistency and grantee accountability, which Jessica addressed by describing the narrative component of reviews and the financial and interim reporting requirements. The group also commended the thoroughness of the process and discussed plans for future grantee networking events. Jessica presented the results of the administrative changes to the program for 2025, highlighting significant improvements in efficiency and savings. The process reduced partial awards from 22 to 5, representing a 78% decrease, saved organizations approximately 123 hours per renewal application, and reduced reviewer workload by 100 hours. The review process identified 15 eligible renewals, which were largely similar to previous years with minor budget adjustments. The total funding request was \$5.175 million, with 42 applications recommended for \$3 million in awards, though only \$2.8 million is currently allocated. Jessica noted that the additional \$200,000 requested would come from the departmental budget, and explained the historical context of increasing funding allocations from \$1 million in 2019 to the current \$2.8 million. The council discussed the need for clarification on conflict of interest procedures as they relate to BHPC members voting to forward funding recommendations to the BoCC. Since the Council is voting to forward the entire recommendation packet as presented (and not individual awards) to the BoCC for review and approval, it was decided that BHS leadership will work on getting legal recommendations for a recusal process and report back to the Council for future meetings. Jessica also reviewed the Gary A. Darling Award nominee for 2025, the Justice-Forward Addiction Counseling Pilot at CSU's Psychological Services Center. Several new programs were also highlighted, including initiatives for older adults, child welfare staff training, and substance use recovery services. The conversation ended with a discussion of next steps, including an upcoming Work Session and Admin Matters with the BoCC to review and request approval of grant recommendations. Commissioner Shadduck-McNally asked for a motion to forward the 42 grant award recommendations for \$3,000,000, including a \$200,000 increase to the BoCC for approval. Bill Jenkins made the motion, seconded by Dee Anne Menzies, and the motion was approved unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Madeline Novey presented an [analysis of grant application surveys](#) from 2021 to 2025, highlighting a strong response rate and positive feedback from applicants and reviewers. The process was generally viewed as user-friendly, with most respondents finding the required information to be appropriate and the support provided by Jessica to be effective. While awareness of the grant program could be improved, the one-month application window was deemed suitable. Suggestions for future improvements included adding paid social media promotion and gathering more information about key staff members.
2. Amy Martonis provided [updates](#) on two key initiatives: a multi-year funding framework for behavioral health and the development of an adolescent unit at Longview. The funding framework project has completed stakeholder engagement sessions and is moving toward prioritization of ideas, with a draft framework expected by December. The adolescent unit, which will expand services by adding up to 7-day crisis care for 12-17 year olds, is scheduled to open in October 2025 with 5 beds initially expanding to 8. A grand-opening event will be held on September 15th from 3:30 - 5 p.m., featuring speakers and optional tours of the unit.
3. Commissioner Jody Shadduck-McNally thanked everyone for their time and asked for a motion to adjourn. Dee Anne Menzies made the motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by David Wiegand; the motion was approved unanimously.

ADJOURN – 10:09 a.m.