

Minutes

LARIMER COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH POLICY COUNCIL

Date: January 8, 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:

Erin Black, Sierra Black, Seth Forwood, Jarah Grashorn, Susan Gutowsky, Wendy Koenig, Clark McCoy, Commissioner Shadduck-McNally, David Wiegand

Attendees:

Hannah Groves, Stacy Oster

Absent:

Brian Ferrans, Isabel Gwilliam, Will Karspeck, Lisa Laake, Barry Wilson

CALL TO ORDER – 8:04 a.m.

COMMISSIONER REMARKS

1. Commissioner Shadduck-McNally called the meeting to order, thanked everyone for attending, and asked for introductions.

STANDING AGENDA ITEMS

1. Commissioner Jody Shadduck-McNally requested a motion to approve the December 4, 2023, BHPC meeting minutes. Wendy Koenig made the motion, seconded by David Wiegand; the motion was approved unanimously.
2. Laura Walker shared the most recent utilization data for Longview. In the first 36 days of operation there were 488 urgent care visits, 76% of which were walk-ins, and only 37% were admitted overnight. Those numbers reaffirm the anticipated need in the community, especially when considering that emergency responders have been practicing a soft launch application for utilization of Longview, per SHP request.

DISCUSSION/DECISIONS

1. Introductions - individuals present introduced themselves by sharing their name and affiliation/municipality.
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. A version translated into Spanish will also be available and distributed soon. 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 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, member's discussed the results and member's questions were addressed. The new CMP will be presented to the Board of County Commissioners next week as well as the executive sponsors and guidance team.
3. Laura Walker discussed the bylaw review planned for this meeting's agenda. There are Boards and Commissions policy changes in the works with the Board of County Commissioners which aren't yet finalized. As a result, this agenda item will be moved to the April agenda to ensure those BoCC policy changes are included in any necessary revisions. As long as the BoCC's drafted policy change is adopted in time, a redlined version of the bylaws will be distributed with ample time prior to the 4/1/23 meeting to allow member's time to review the revisions.
4. Commissioner Shadduck-McNally asked for nominations for BHPC Chair & Vice Chair to serve through 2024. Commissioner Shadduck-McNally nominated herself to continue as chair, Susan Gutowsky seconded. No other nominations were made, and the motion was approved unanimously. Seth Forwood nominated himself to serve as Vice Chair, David Wiegand seconded. No other nominations were made, and the motion was approved unanimously.
5. Jessica Plummer discussed the 2024 TAC & CAC work product, [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.
6. Laura Walker discussed the annual BHPC work plan that she'll be submitting to the Board of County Commissioners. The BoCC requires all Boards & Commissions (BHPC included) to submit a work plan annually to provide an outline of what the board intends to focus on for that coming year. Laura discussed that the BHPC has a very clear and consistent direction each year, meeting to discuss community BH issues with a focus on the Impact Fund Grant Program. As a result, the work plan will simply involve lifting up that information, but Laura wanted to make members aware of the process and the plan being submitted to the BoCC.

- a. In the same vein, Laura wanted to discuss what it means for the BHPC to have involvement in the operations of the Longview Acute Care Facility. Especially since it's new and there's such a huge investment made in both construction costs and supporting operations. Until such time as SHP can really hone in on the reimbursements they can receive from as many insurance sources as they can, we need to ensure that the facility has all necessary resources. So, Laura wanted to let the group know that 2 oversight committees are being developed in collaboration between Larimer County, SummitStone Health Partners, and consumers, to specifically oversee operations of the building. To be clear, neither committee will be decision-making committees. There will be both a quality and finance oversight committee who will be responsible for getting data out to the public (since taxpayer dollars are supporting operations) and Larimer County as the contract holders, to hold the SHP accountable for their work. Quality committee data will include volumes of people being served, the types of services being offered, as well as the success of those services. That means following up with clients after receiving services to determine how we are doing with that care coordination piece, and what the quality of the experience is that people feel they've had when they've come to the facility. So, getting input directly from the consumer is going to be vital. The Finance Committee is going to be tracking finances, maximizing reimbursement back from insurance companies and other providers, making sure staffing is adequate, staff is adequately trained, and ensuring that certifications are up to date, etc. Reports out from those groups probably won't happen more than once per quarter but that could change over time. The BH advisory groups will get advance notice of those reports coming out so we're as transparent as possible and those groups can 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 prior to the end of the quarter. The other piece is that when these groups are chartered, everything they're responsible for is outlined explicitly. Health Management Associates (HMA), who BHS contracted with to develop the startup contract as well as the operational contract for the facility with SHP, will be drafting charters for these groups. HMA are experts in the space of accountability around the delivery of these services and proper fiscal documentation. So, their draft of the charters will make sure that the county is covered as a financial entity and that SHP is accountable as the responsible contracting party.
7. The job listing has been posted to refill the BHS Director role and the listing is set to close on January 21st. Laura wanted to make sure that the BHS advisory groups are aware that there will be an opportunity for the community to see the finalists before a final decision is made. At this point, the plan is to have finalists complete a community presentation on the afternoon of February 15th with a Q & A as well as a meet and greet once presentations are finished for the Board of County Commissioners.
8. Seth Forwood made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Susan Gutowsky seconded; the motion was approved unanimously.

The next BHPC meeting will be held at 2260 W. Trilby Rd. on April 1st, 2024.

ADJOURN – 9:38 a.m.