

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: April 7, 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:

Nicole Armstrong, Karen Barrett, Ashley Braund, Michael Ellis, Alison Ford, Seth Forwood, Amber Franzel, Kelly Glick, Susan Gutowsky, Erin Hadlow, Gary Hall, Bill Jenkins, Radhwan Jubair, Will Karspeck, Glenda Kastle, Andrea Linafelter, Sarah McKeen, Kyle McPherson, Dee Anne Menzies, Chad Morris, Savannah Naffziger, Rachel Olsen, Michael Ruttenberg, Commissioner Shadduck-McNally, Ron Steinbach, Amber Sullivan, Jennifer Swanty, David Wiegand

Absent:

Sierra Black, Erin Black, Cedric Clark, Bianca Daugherty, Jim Fox, Joshua Fuller, Tom Gonzales, Jarah Grashorn, Nevaeh Greene, Isabel Gwilliam, Cheryl Jacobs, Madison Krumwiede, Mary Maldonado, Hans Pearson, Laura Whitney

CALL TO ORDER – 8:09 a.m.

COMMISSIONER REMARKS

1. Commissioner Shadduck-McNally called the meeting to order and asked everyone to complete a brief introduction. Commissioner Shadduck-McNally expressed gratitude to everyone involved in behavioral health work, emphasizing the importance of these efforts during uncertain and stressful times. She acknowledged the emotional strain on everyone from youth to older adults and stressed the value of offering reassurance. The Commissioner went on to highlight the significance of the county's sales tax funding for behavioral health, especially as federal and state budget cuts impact services. Commissioner Shadduck-McNally also discussed recent advocacy efforts in Washington,

D.C., including unlocking over \$25 million in frozen funds, and ongoing work to address further Medicaid and health services cuts. The Commissioner emphasized the crucial role of local governance and the strength of community collaboration across the county. Looking ahead, Commissioner Shadduck-McNally reminded attendees about May's designation as Mental Health Awareness Month and the invitation to attend Larimer County's Board of County Commissioners' adoption of the proclamation. The Commissioner closed by reiterating her appreciation for the council's work, inviting questions.

ACTION ITEMS/DECISIONS

1. Commissioner Shadduck-McNally asked for a motion to approve the 1/13/25 BHPC meeting minutes. Gary Hall motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Ron Steinbach; the minutes were approved unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Jessica Plummer presented updates on the [Impact Fund Grant Program](#) by reviewing the work done in the previous year, proposed changes for the current year (including administrative changes), and a roadmap for 2026. The aim is to improve processes and provide quality customer service. Jessica provided an overview of the grant program's history and proposed changes for 2025. Over the past six years, the program has distributed \$14.7 million through 228 grants to 72 organizations, with \$2.8 million available annually. Due to increasing applications and continuation requests, funding requests now exceed available funds by 2.5 times. To address this, the program plans to implement changes including adjusting the application timeline, increasing funding flexibility, providing more support for budgets and objectives, and introducing new budget tiers of \$25,000, \$50,000, \$75,000, and \$100,000. The program also aims to reduce partial awards by 50% and is considering multi-year funding options for 2026 to improve sustainability for organizations. Jessica discussed the renewal criteria for grant recipients, emphasizing that they must be current grantees, have received and effectively managed five or more grants, and consistently meet reporting requirements. The renewal process aims to streamline the application process, reduce reviewer load, and allocate more funding to targeted projects. The proposal includes communications strategies to better tell the story of the impact of the funding. The renewal process will be piloted, with the goal of continuous improvement. A renewal notice will be sent to eligible organizations before the grant period opens on May 13th. The renewal process will also include a survey to quantify the time saved. Jessica and Madeline Novey outlined communication plans to inform organizations about the changes. Jessica reviewed feedback from the TAC and CAC and discussed next steps with Amy Martonis, including contracting a vendor for facilitation, data & evaluation for the multi-year funding

co-design process. Amy went out to explain how this contracting approach aligns with the stewardship goals of the County and department.

2. Madeline Novey discussed the [2024 annual report](#) for the behavioral health tax initiative, emphasizing the importance of storytelling to demonstrate the impact of tax dollars on the community. The report aims to educate both new residents and those familiar with the tax about its significance and effects. Madeline details that Larimer County has generated about \$128 million in gross sales-and-use tax revenue for this initiative between 2019-2024. The Behavioral Health Services department, formed after the 2018 initiative, is evolving from its initial grant program to include long-term investments and the acute care facility at Longview. Madeline discussed the department's purpose, mission, vision, and values, emphasizing their commitment to serving the community. She highlighted the Impact Fund Grant program, which has provided 14.7 million dollars to 72 organizations in Larimer County. Madeline also shared some stories of impact, highlighting a few organizations that have received grant funding, showcasing how these funds have positively impacted individuals and families in the community. She emphasized the importance of storytelling in increasing awareness of resources and connecting people to help. Madeline also discussed the importance of storytelling in the context of communicating the impact of the behavioral health facility. She highlighted the need to make the content more accessible to the public and the potential for media promotion. Madeline also mentioned the creation of videos to showcase the facility and its services. She emphasized the need for timely storytelling and the importance of tracking data to understand the facility's impact. Amy Martonis also shared [preliminary data](#) on the facility's usage by different municipalities and expressed the need for ongoing communication with the community. Madeline's overview concluded with a discussion of plans to distribute the report on the [BHS website](#), social media platforms, and to partners.
3. Madeline Novey discussed efforts to recognize the month of May as Mental Health Awareness Month. Larimer County's Board of County Commissioners will read and adopt a proclamation for mental health awareness month on May 6th at the 9 am 'Admin Matters' meeting. For those interested in attending, please contact Madeline Novey or Ryan Barstow to coordinate further. Additionally, the Commissioner's office will make printed and stamped copies of the [proclamation](#) available for anyone who would like to bring it to their municipality to adopt in May.
4. Amy shared that BHS is planning a 1-year celebratory event to recognize the first year of operations at Longview, which will align with the opening of the adolescent unit, likely in July or August of this year.
5. Commissioner Jody Shadduck-McNally thanked everyone for their time and asked for a motion to adjourn. Seth Forwood made the motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Susan Gutowsky; the motion was approved unanimously.

ADJOURN – 9:54 a.m.