

LARIMER COUNTY | BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES

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MINUTES

LARIMER COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH POLICY COUNCIL

Date: October 4, 2021
Time: 8:00-10:00am
Location: Zoom Webinar
Contact: Laurie Stolen, Behavioral Health Services Director
Ryan Barstow, Behavioral Health Business Operations Coordinator

Participants:

Nick Christensen, Marianne Dungan, Susan Gutowsky, Wendy Koenig, Lisa Kurth, Clark McCoy, Chad Morris, Steve Olson, Jody Shadduck-McNally, Barry Wilson

BHS Staff:

Summer Leaming, Jessica Plummer, Kim Priddy, Laurie Stolen, Jennifer Wolfe-Kimbell

Grantee Virtual Site Visits:

Laurie Dale Marshall, Shannon Hughes, Geena Rupp

Attendees:

Seth Forwood

Absent:

Will Karspeck, Lisa Laake, Mary Maldonado, Troy Hamman, Bill Stevens

CALL TO ORDER – 8:01 a.m.

STANDING AGENDA ITEMS

1. Barry Wilson called the meeting to order and asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the September 13, 2021 meeting. Steve Olson made the motion, seconded by Susan Gutowsky; the motion was approved unanimously.

2. Grantee Virtual Tours:
 - a. Laurie Dale Marshall from Estes Valley Investment in Childhood Success (EVICS) presented a virtual tour of her agency's work, and an additional video is [available here](#). Laurie then answered Council member's questions.
 - b. Shannon Hughes and Geena Rupp from the Colorado State University's School of Social Work presented a virtual tour of their work by sharing this [presentation](#). Shannon then answered Council member's questions.
3. Kim Priddy shared an update on the BHS dashboard and reviewed the Community Health Assessment, last conducted by the Health District in 2019. They're getting prepped for the 2022 version, and have reached out to us as they have in the past to see if we have any inquiries for questions we'd like included in that survey. Kim said she's hoping we can work with them and potentially the Larimer County Health Department to make sure we're not missing an opportunity. This is one of the largest assessments of behavioral health local to Larimer County and only happens every 3 years. So as that partnership develops, Kim asks BHPC members to think about anything they'd like to advocate for to have included in that survey and we can put in a request to do so. Laurie Stolen added a related update regarding the Community Master Plan for Behavioral Health Services. This was created during the campaign for the Behavioral Health initiative due to a need for relevant BH information. This plan will be renewed every five years and the County's intention is to be a strong community partner to assist in this work. The sponsors identified to renew the Community Master Plan are Carol Plock from the Health District, Michael Allen from SummitStone, and Laurie Stolen from BHS. They intend to make it as much of a community plan as possible, including work from the Poudre School District's Mental Health Master Plan, the Community Health Improvement Plan, work being done on the state level, as well as the Community Health Assessment, previously discussed by Kim. Laurie added that if Council members have any thoughts on information they'd like included to please send them to Laurie. The renewed Community Master Plan is planned to be finished and ready for distribution by the end of 2022.
4. Laurie Stolen shared an update on the BHS Facility, groundbreaking is scheduled for 12/8/21. BHS and the communications team from the Commissioner's office is working on outreach to the surrounding neighborhoods around the facility site to inform people of what's going on and provide them with an outlet for questions/concerns. As the project proceeds more information will be available for the community, including a dedicated website for the facility, press releases, etc. Laurie then thanked the Larimer County Commissioners and the Facilities Department Director, Ken Cooper, for their incredible leadership and resilience, without them this work wouldn't be moving forward.

DISCUSSION/DECISIONS

1. Laurie Stolen asked for Council members feedback on the BHPC's role for the remainder of 2021. There are only 2 more meetings in 2021, 1 in November, and 1 joint meeting between the BHPC, TAC, and CAC in December. Laurie also updated members on the

application period for open BHS advisory group seats, the deadline for applications has been extended to 10/15/21. New member recommendations will be brought to the BHPC for review in November and new members appointed in December.

2. Laurie Stolen provided an update on the TAC's subcommittee work. Subcommittees were formed to examine 3 topics that TAC members felt needed some additional work and consideration but the TAC as a whole wouldn't have capacity to look into. The 3 subcommittees formed are looking at adding a youth voice to advisory group input, improving communication between advisory groups as well as externally from the advisory groups, and multi-year grant funding. The findings of these subcommittees will be shared with the BHPC as it becomes available.
3. Laurie gave an overview of the plan for the 2022 work session of the TAC and CAC. The intentions of the first 5-year phase of the BHS initiative are to maintain the same 6 funding priorities that have previously been identified. Then annually, revisit the targeted projects to see if changes are necessary by looking at critical needs still existing in the community. Laurie also mentioned that a group of consumers got together to draft a letter to front desk staff at providers explaining how difficult it can be to seek out help and offer advice on how to interact with consumers to provide as caring of an experience as possible. This letter is [available here](#) and with this information in mind, Laurie discussed how important it is to keep the quality of care being provided in mind in our work moving forward with both grant funding and the BHS facility. Laurie shared that Dr. Lesley Brooks, the medical director of the BHS facility, will be joining the next CAC meeting to begin discussions on creating a panel of consumers as part of onboarding training for staff of the facility. The goal is so new staff can hear this type of feedback directly from consumers and be able to help train staff to provide the highest level quality of care we can and hope to create a model for. This opened up a discussion to specific needs of various populations and spatial considerations of the facility, all of which are being addressed in the design and planning of the BH facility.
4. To wrap up and reiterate the opportunity for Council members to provide feedback, Laurie asked input on the Impact Fund Program to date and if there are any change requests for 2022. No specific input was offered by members but if anyone has ideas please let Laurie know.

OTHER BUSINESS

1. With his term coming to an end on 11/30/21, Barry thanked Nick Christensen for his service on the BHPC and the expertise and passion he's brought to the group. Nick then shared that he's appreciative of the opportunity to work with everyone on the BHPC and the BHS team and although he's resigning from his seat on the Council, he'll continue to remain an advocate and supporter.
2. Laurie discussed that per council bylaws, nominations and a vote to appoint a new BHPC Chair and Vice-Chair will take place at the next meeting in November.

3. In closing, Commissioner Jody Shadduck-McNally offered some thoughts and thanked everyone for their work on the BHPC including Nick's years of service and expertise which are extremely valuable. She also shared some BH related happenings and opportunities in the community including, speaking with the Governor about our BHS work in Larimer, receiving great feedback on the grant funding process in area newspapers, listening sessions in Spanish, expanding broadband (which can increase mental health access via telehealth), and the Commissioner's budget work for the next year currently taking place.

Next meeting will be held on November 1, 2021 and the venue is to be determined.

ADJOURN – 9:41 a.m.