

MINUTES

LARIMER COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH POLICY COUNCIL

Date: September 12, 2022
Time: 8:00 - 10:00am
Location: Zoom Webinar
Contact: Laurie Stolen, Behavioral Health Services Director
Ryan Barstow, Behavioral Health Business Operations Coordinator

Participants:

Brian Ferrans, Susan Gutowsky, Wendy Koenig, Lisa Laake, Jacki Marsh,
Clark McCoy, Chad Morris, Jody Shaddock-McNally, David Wiegand,
Barry Wilson

Grantee Virtual Site Visits:

Merry Hummell, Jen Ryan, Alice Stopher, Anna Von Dreele

Absent:

Marianne Dungan, Will Karspeck, Lisa Kurth, Mary Maldonado, Steve
Olson

Attendees:

1-309-261-4292, Michael Ruttenberg, Laura Walker, Beth Yonce

CALL TO ORDER – 8:04 a.m.

COMMISSIONER REMARKS

1. Barry Wilson called the meeting to order and opened the meeting with Commissioner Shaddock-McNally's remarks. Commissioner Shaddock-McNally discussed the tour of the Acute Care facility at Longview she took part in last week with the State Board of Human Services including the Executive Director of Human Services, the Deputy Director of Communications for the state's Behavioral Health Administration, and partners from SummitStone. About 25 people were in attendance for the tour along with

the construction and management crews. The Commissioner said it was great to see the progress and what the various spaces look like. The Commissioner said that staff did a great job in coordinating the tour. Commissioner Shadduck-McNally then shared that the Larimer County Board of County Commissioners officially approved the 2022 Impact Fund Grant Program recommendations as well as the annual allocation increase for the program to \$2.8 million. Commissioner Shadduck-McNally said she was in Lyons on Friday night and spoke with the Mayor and some other folks about the Lyons Fire Protection District grant and they were very excited about it. She went on to say that it's budget season and she's hopeful about being able to leverage some resources in relation to some things happening with the Regional Opioid Abatement Council, for which she serves as Vice Chair.

STANDING AGENDA ITEMS

1. Barry Wilson asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the August 22, 2022 meeting. Susan Gutowsky made the motion, seconded by Wendy Koenig; the motion was approved unanimously.
2. Kim Priddy reviewed an update on the [BHS dashboard](#) sharing new data that was entered, including suicide and overdose death rates. Kim also shared a new view of the data that she put together at the request of BHPC members, which shows a cumulative number of suicides by month and comparatively by year. Kim reminded everyone that in any month with fewer than 3 suicide deaths reported, the data is suppressed to protect individuals and so, there may be an artificial jump in numbers in some months. Kim said if the new view that she put together is helpful she can make similar screens for the other data available. Kim then answered council member questions on the data available. Laurie also shared the following [article](#) related to suicide and COVID.
3. Laurie Stolen gave an update on the construction of the Acute Care facility at Longview saying that the 50% completion mark was recently reached and the goal is to get the building dried in before winter. The schedule is working towards taking occupancy of the building by 8/23. Laurie said that as she continues to have regular conversations with SummitStone partners, it's exciting to see all the progress being made on recruitment and workforce development pipeline efforts, and partnerships. This includes formal partnerships with colleges around the country to create the center of excellence and training ground at Longview. Laurie said the plan is to continue working with higher education institutes to let people know that if they want the best training in Behavioral Health, to come to Larimer County. Laurie stressed the amount of work that's gone into ensuring the facility is a success when it opens, and said right now the focus is on internships, care coordination, and care compacts and partnerships in our community. Commissioner Shadduck-McNally shared her photos from last week's Acute Facility tour and Laurie answered council member's questions about the project. Laurie said that BHS staff will be working towards public tours and having a public ribbon cutting ceremony

with all the relevant partners and state representatives to celebrate this precedent setting opportunity for our community.

4. Laurie Stolen reviewed the Community Landscape Update. Laurie shared that there's promotions, career moves, and opportunities and really strong programming happening around our community. She also said that numbers are looking good for a bridge services fund which would help ensure that no one be denied treatment because of their inability to pay or their insurance coverage. There is a new CEO at North Range Behavioral Health, Kim Collins, who has taken over after former CEO Larry Potteroff retired, and Laurie shared that she's excited to continue that strong partnership. The Opioid Abatement Council and related settlements are probably top of mind for a lot of people right now; the regional council which Public Health Director Tom Gonzales is Chair, and Commissioner Shadduck-McNally Vice Chair for, will oversee funds coming into our community over the next 18 years. So, we've got a strong group of advisory members and those with lived experience and as decisions are made, the BHPC will continue to receive updates. Commissioner Shadduck-McNally shared this [website](#) for anyone interested in learning more about the council.

DISCUSSION/DECISIONS

1. Laurie Stolen discussed the BoCC approval of the 2022 Impact Fund grant recommendations and that a few grants have even already been fully signed and executed. The BoCC also approved the \$2.8 million annual allocation increase for 2023.
2. Laurie Stolen discussed the open application period for BHS advisory groups which takes place annually in September. Applications are being accepted through 9/29/22 and Laurie reviewed the recruitment/approval process culminating in new members joining in December. Applications being accepted [here](#) and more information is available [here](#).
3. Laurie Stolen reminded members that the December meeting is a combined meeting of the BHPC, TAC, and CAC with food available and it will be in-person at the Larimer County Administrative Services building located at 200 W. Oak St. Fort Collins.
4. Laurie Stolen discussed the 2023 schedule for BHS advisory groups, which calendars and materials will be forthcoming. Schedule adjustments have been made to the due to system efficiencies and workload demands with the facility opening. The BHPC will be meeting quarterly in January, April, August, and December. We'll get creative on our virtual agency tours, potentially emailing presentations and members can reach out to BHS staff or the agencies themselves with questions. The TAC and CAC have been utilized mainly through a work session in the beginning of year so they'll be meeting Jan - April for the work session and again at the combo meeting in December. Calendars, appointments, etc. will be sent out to members as soon as possible.
5. Jessica Plummer shared this [presentation](#) regarding Impact Fund Grant Program applicant and review feedback.

GRANTEE VIRTUAL TOURS

1. Jen Ryan from CASA of Larimer County presented a virtual tour of her agency's work by sharing this [presentation](#) which included this [video](#). Alice Stopher from CASA of Larimer County was also in attendance for the presentation.
2. Anna Von Dreele from Northern Colorado Health Sector Partnership presented a virtual tour of her agency's work by sharing this [presentation](#).
3. Merry Hummell from Every Child Pediatrics - The Health and Wellness Center presented a virtual tour of her agency's work by sharing this [presentation](#) which included this [video](#). Merry then answered Council member's questions.

The next meeting will be held virtually on October 3rd, 2022.

ADJOURN – 9:42 a.m.