

MINUTES

Behavioral Health Advisory Board
Clallam County Courthouse
Virtual via Zoom
October 12, 2021
3:00 pm-5:00 pm

Voting

*Members
Present:*

Amy Miller, Bruce Fernie, Christina Miko, Don Lawley,
Don Wenzl, John DeBoer, Helen Kenoyer, Grace Bell, Tom
Stokes, Viola Ware, Travis Hedin

Non-voting members present: Kevin LoPiccolo, Stephanie Lewis, Wendy Sisk, Kristina
Bullington, Kirsten Poole, Jody Jacobsen

Absent: Tayler McCrorie

General Attendance: Jenny Oppelt, Christine Dunn, G'Neil Ashley, Nita Lynn, Kate
Ingman, Luisa Sheppard, Ellen Fetchiet, Emma Watson, Amy
Bundy

1. Welcome and Introductions – The meeting was called to order at 3:02pm

2. Agenda – Majority Approved

3. Minutes – Two corrections were made. Minutes approved as amended

4. Old Business

- Covid-19 Impacts
 - Viola Ware observed that people are experiencing fatigue and burnout thus feeling tired and hopeless. She finds people are less likely to seek for help because they assume it is not available.
 - Wendy Sisk reported emergency department (ED) visits for suicidal ideation/suicide attempts and psychiatric hospitalizations appear to be decreasing but this is an inaccurate capture of what is actually occurring in the community due to the impact of House Bill 1310 making it difficult to get people into custody and thus to the ED.
- RFP Update
 - Jenny Oppelt shared news of the 16 proposals (see attached spreadsheet) received for 2022-23 Behavioral Health Funding totaling \$4,037,890.80. This is \$2,037,890.8 over the available funding. Two RFP Review Committee members stepped down (Helen Kenoyer and Tayler McCrorie). Request for two more members was proposed; Stephanie Lewis and Tom Stokes volunteered to be on the committee.
 - Grace Bell raised concern about the amount of time and energy needed to participate in the RFP Review Committee and the toll it takes when also working. She suggested

- utilizing weekend days for the RFP Review Committee interviews. Jenny Oppelt responded this would need to be organized months in advance due to many moving parts as all bidders will be scheduled for interviews and time was discussed at our August meeting.
- Jenny Oppelt will be reaching out to Review Committee members to schedule two half days for interviewing bidders and discuss funding recommendations.

5. New Business

- Presentation was given by Reflections Counseling: Crisis Intervention & Underinsured/Noninsured – G’Nell Ashley, Administrator & Luisa Sheppard, SUDPT
 - Luisa shared their Underinsured/Noninsured program bridges the gap for participants who either do not qualify for apple insurance or have insurance but do not have financial means to pay for copays/deductibles. Program staff continuously works to help participants enroll in most appropriate insurance or other programs when available. The goal of this program is to insure participants to continue to receive the services they need regardless of their financial status.
 - Luisa shared her agency has observed consistent need for the Crisis Intervention program throughout the years. She noted the pandemic has shifted the need for clients needing more “handholding” or more interaction than previously. Luisa reported seeing the need for increased crisis intervention workers in the community. They hope to add an additional crisis worker to address this need. Luisa spoke to the difficulties designated crisis responders (DCRs) experience when crisis clients come to them due to current constraints and that her program often works with DCRs in providing “warm handoffs” of participants.
 - The goals of the Crisis Intervention program are to keep the client safe, build trusting relationships, and meet the participant where they are so participants know where to come when they are ready. They have exceeded their annual expectations for numbers of participants served each year. G’Nell reported for 2021 they have served over 230 unduplicated individuals as of September. In 2020 they served well over 500 participants.
 - A positive aspect noted was the observation and experience of agencies working collaboratively when it comes to participants needs arising from the pandemic.
- Bylaw Review
 - Discussion surrounding voting vs. non-voting membership and how this structure has made obtaining a quorum, taking action during a meeting, and voting confusing.
 - Don Lawley recalled that there was a state audit that prompted members to change the Bylaws to have select members becoming non-voting to mitigate conflict of interest.
 - The Sheriff’s office was not initially receiving funds thought the 1/10th of 1% (aka Hargrove or Behavioral Health funding) and was a voting member, now they are receiving funds but remain a voting member.
 - A reminder was made that several county programs: the county jail, Juvenile Services, Drug Court, LIFT Court, Mental Health Court, the clerk’s office, and Syringe Exchange all received funding from 1/10th of 1% (aka Hargrove or Behavioral Health funding) outside of the RFP process.

- Suggestion was made to allow all members to be voting members and have those receiving funds or benefitting from the 1/10th of 1% (aka Hargrove or Behavioral Health funding) dollars to recuse themselves from voting on specific items.
- Another suggestion was made to allow RFP beneficiaries review the applications, but not vote on their own. However, Board Chair requested the focus to remain on voting and non-voting membership as first priority.
- This discussion will be tabled until the County Prosecuting Attorney, Elizabeth Stanley, and Commissioner Ozias can attend early in 2022. Jenny Oppelt will reach out to gain availability and schedule this discussion.
- Position Vacancy
 - Tribal Representative Position continues to be vacant. It was encouraged for members to reach out to anyone they feel might be appropriate for the position and connect with Jenny Oppelt if any questions arise.

6. Future Meeting Agendas

- 2022-23 Funding Recommendation
- Presentation from 2021 contracted program
- January or February continue bylaw review

7. Public Comment

- G'Nell Ashley thanked the board for the invitation to share her program. She also reported feeling frustrated in the 2022-23 proposals that are requesting significant funding for under/noninsured or wraparound services due to the availability and underutilization of funding through RFP from the SBH-ASO SUD Block Grant. She hopes other programs maximize other funding opportunities in the future.

8. Announcements

- Jenny Oppelt informed of the Saturday, October 23rd, Drug Takeback program
- Wendy Sisk advised there is a medication drop box at the PBH pharmacy office
- Wendy Sisk also gave an update of the new All View Motel to be completed by April with 27 new low income affordable housing units specific to people experiencing behavioral health needs.
- Jenny Oppelt congratulated Helen Kenoyer on her new position with OPCC.

9. Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 4:42

Next meeting: November 9, 2021
Virtual

Voting Members: Grace Bell, Jesse Charles, John DeBoer, Bruce Fernie, Travis Hedin, Helen Kenoyer, Don Lawley, Tayler McCrorie, Christina Miko, Amy Miller, Tom Stokes, Viola Ware, Don Wenzl
Non-Voting Members: Kristina Bullington, Jody Jacobson, Stephanie Lewis, Kevin LoPiccolo, Kirsten Poole, Wendy Sisk