

BENTON-FRANKLIN BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes | January 12, 2023

Call to Order: 2:00 PM

Introduction of Members: All voting and non-voting members introduced themselves.

Approval of December 8, 2022 Minutes: The committee members reviewed the December 8, 2023 committee meeting minutes. Jason Bliss moved to approve the minutes as presented, Sindi Saunders seconded. Minutes approved.

Public Comment: None.

Discussion Items:

1. Discussion on Mental Health Work Group Priorities List:

Matt Rasmussen brought forth this item for further discussion, originally brought forth at the November meeting, for priorities in the community:

- a. The Mental Health Work Group met to identify gaps in the community, determine the most important items for the community, and prioritize by implementation timeframe
- b. Priorities:
 - i. Field responder program
 - ii. Respite/diversion beds (for youth and adults)
 - iii. Access to a prescriber on an urgent basis
 - iv. Youth inpatient facility (children's long-term inpatient)
 - v. Adult evaluation and treatment center
 - vi. Day treatment services (for youth and adults)
 - vii. Eating disorder treatment
 - viii. Partial hospitalization, intensive outpatient with medication management, dialectical behavioral therapy (DBT) program to fidelity, transitional housing
- c. The committee discussed that the first three items on the previous list are ones that are likely to be established relatively quickly and how they are deployed.
- d. **Field Responder Program:**
 - i. Matt Rasmussen requested that the Sheriff's representatives discuss the deployment options for field responders with the chiefs and sheriffs locally.
 - ii. Sindi Saunders mentioned that there is an existing contract for a co-responder that they have been unable to fill due to some of the contract requirements. The existing contract is for \$100,000 and requires the person to be a staff employee (not a contract employee).
 - iii. Jason Bliss mentioned the models that are currently in place in Tempe, AZ as a good model and requested seeing how those agencies are set up.
 - iv. Chief Michael mentioned evaluating response times to ensure prompt response however the field responders are deployed.
 - v. The committee discussed potentially expanding the existing program operated by Comprehensive to have potentially faster response times.
 - vi. The first response model depends on what will work best for local agencies
 - vii. In Washington State 988 serves as a resource to the community, but there isn't a seamless way for them to transfer an emergency call to 911. Also, 988 cannot legally automatically

get a person's location upon calling. There isn't a way to transfer between 988 and 911 (either direction)

- viii. Right now, there isn't a very focused method for capturing data relating to 988 calls or 911 calls to the detail of specifying if a call is specifically behavioral health, SUD, etc.
- ix. LA County is a great example of a triage system for 911 to determine the level of response needed and which resources need to be included in the response
- x. Next steps:
 - 1. Have Law Enforcement and EMS representatives take this discussion back to their peer groups and colleagues to determine the preferred deployment of a field response program.
 - 2. Reach out to the groups in Arizona to send their models for us to look at
- xi. Motion: Jason Bliss moved and Chad Michael seconded to have Law Enforcement and EMS representatives take this discussion back to their peer groups and colleagues to determine the preferred deployment of a field response program and report back to the committee. Motion carried.

e. Respite/diversion beds:

- i. Would be something that could be established via direct contract with a contractor/provider
- ii. There is space for these types of programs in the old Kennewick General Hospital facility
- iii. Kyle Sullivan offered to connect with Gordon Cable and Cameron Fordmeier, to meet with providers in the area to determine what a diversion program/space could look like
- iv. Cameron Fordmeier brought up the need for beds for underserved and critical populations (Alzheimer's/dementia, autism, youth, developmental disabilities, etc.)
- v. Rebecca Grohs moved and ___ seconded to have the Benton County Human Services Department work with other members of the committee to reach out to providers in the area to determine what a diversion program could look like and report back to the committee.

f. Access to prescriber:

- i. Would be something that could be established via direct contract with a contractor/provider
- ii. Rebecca Grohs asked about the possibility of a telehealth prescriber rather than requiring in-person or local to expand the pool of options
- iii. Communications/outreach would need to happen to provide information to the public
- iv. The prescriber would function only on an interim basis and wouldn't be long-term
- v. The committee discussed the payment for services and funding available for services
- vi. Matt Rasmussen said he could reach out to the Benton County Jail to see if they have any data regarding the number of undocumented persons and behavioral health or mental health services provided
- vii. BJ Olson asked if there was a provider locally that would have access to data regarding services provided to undocumented persons – Grace Clinic and Farm Workers Clinics
- viii. Jason Bliss moved and Sindi Saunders seconded to have Rebecca Grohs research the telehealth options for access to a prescriber. Motion carried.

2. Update on Status of Request for Proposals:

- a. Matt Rasmussen updated the committee on the status of the RFP – including that the RFP response received previously was rejected and that the new RFP will be re-issued on Tuesday, January 17, 2023.
- b. Matt discussed working with members of the committee to reach out to specific providers in the community to let them know that the RFP is open for proposals to be received, should those groups be interested in applying.
- c. Gordon Cable requested that the RFP clarify the licensing requirements

- d. A representative from Comprehensive clarified that the Crisis Stabilization Unit would likely need to be licensed as a Residential Treatment Facility (RTF) that is certified as an Evaluation and Treatment (E&T) facility.

3. Discussion on Tours of Facilities: Added by Chairman, BJ Olson

- a. The committee members discussed their perceptions and experiences touring the two facilities that are to be used for the Recovery Center, and all comments expressed were positive.
- b. The County has invested money in boarding up the accessible windows to the KGH facility, which has significantly deterred vandalism and break-ins, which had previously escalated and caused significant damage.
- c. Rebecca Grohs asked if there was the possibility of leasing space to providers sooner that would eventually end up in the Recovery Center, prior to opening the various Recovery Center services.
- d. Brian Ace mentioned that leasing space in the buildings too early (prior to choosing a provider to operate the Recovery Center) could limit that provider and hinder the vision of having a “blank slate” to start.
- e. BJ Olson asked to confirm with committee members that there are no reservations with moving forward with the two facilities
 - i. Members expressed that while they would prefer the services be housed in one facility, the reality necessitated two separate facilities and at least they are in close proximity
 - ii. For all intents and purposes, there will still be a “one-stop shop” for law enforcement and other EMS to have a single point of contact in one facility.
 - iii. Sindi Saunders mentioned that now there are two facilities, there is more space for services to be provided that otherwise wouldn't have a place to go.
 - iv. Jason Bliss asked to confirm that both Counties' Commissioners are still on board with working together on the Recovery Center – Matt Rasmussen mentioned that individual Commissioners have requested bi-county meetings to discuss the Recovery Center (quarterly or on a different frequency)
- f. Erin Petty requested that the committee consider appointing specific members to be spokesperson for the committee – the bylaws state that the Chairman is the spokesperson
- g. Matt Rasmussen suggested that the Communications group meet to specify roles and a potential communication plan for the committee.

Public Comment:

- 1. An attendee mentioned they worked previously with licensing children's crisis beds and offered to assist however possible.
- 2. Another attendee requested clarification for which services were to be provided at the leased Bruneau facility and space needed for each unit, and that the committee needs to be aware that there may be space constraints.
- 3. Benton County Commissioner Jerome Delvin thanked the committee members for being on the committee and taking their time to serve the community.

Other Business:

- 1. Carla Prock asked for clarification regarding work groups, and whether it would be appropriate to bring in non-members to work group meetings to discuss these issues outside the committee, to then bring that information back to the overall committee.
- 2. Shyanne Palmus notified the committee that she is leaving Benton County and expressed her thanks to the committee for all the work they do and that she will assist however she can to assure continued success of the committee.

Adjourned: 3:22 PM