

BENTON-FRANKLIN BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes | April 13, 2023

Call to Order: 2:00 PM

Introduction of Members: All voting and non-voting members plus their representation/organization.

Voting Members: Erin Petty, Bob Gear, Sindi Saunders, B.J. Olson, Erika Barton, Rebecca Grohs, Joel Chavez, Jason Bliss, Angie Manterola, Tom Croskrey, Jim Raymond, Brian Ace, Chad Michael, Shelby Beardslee, Tevor Hummel.

Approval of March 9, 2023, Minutes: The committee members all reviewed the March 9, 2023 committee meeting minutes. Unanimous approval.

Public Comment: Benton County Commissioner Jerome Delvin encouraged to committee members to read recent article from Seattle Times highlighting King County's proposed crisis centers (<https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/mental-health/king-countys-proposed-crisis-centers-what-they-are-how-they-would-work/>). He noted King County's proposal is very similar to what's being done locally. Noted the article would be a good read.

Discussion Items:

1. Presentation from Lt. Kist & Becca Eskeli with Comprehensive Health Care – Benton County Jail Behavioral Health Program Expansion Proposal
 - a. Proposal, similar to one in Yakima County, would add two crisis responders as well as give recommendations to the Jail
 - b. Goal is to give inmates in need of services more flexibility in accessing available resources, and less time in lock down setting
 - c. Proposal looks to expand existing program, resulting in the addition of 4.0 FTE, at a cost of \$407,000 additionally annually
 - d. When asked if a remodel of the current facility in the jail be needed, "not now" was the response given
 - e. Croskrey noted "this isa great idea", adding additional programs and efforts like this are needed
 - f. Under the proposal, Jail would look at pulling in volunteers when possible
 - g. Michael and Gear both expressed an interest in seeing a budget to ensure the committee knows "just what they are getting into"
 - h. Proposal would not be run in cohorts, but rather allowing individuals to voluntarily enter, progress and conclude services at any time convenient for the individual
 - i. Proposal would help meet needs during current backlog in the court system
 - j. When asked about Yakima County's program:

- i. Few details were offered, “hard data” expected from Yakima County into the future
 - ii. Not entirely clear from where Yakima County’s funding is coming
 - k. When asked how long such a contract with Comprehensive would run, Rasmussen noted contracts like this typically run for 2-3 years
 - l. Croskrey made a motion for more in-depth information of the proposal, including services as well as cost analysis
 - m. Gear asked how many people/programs are looking to provide services such as these
 - n. Croskrey’s motion was approved unanimously
- 2. Request for Proposals (RFP) discussion on interviews with providers & potential recommendation
 - a. Olson noted that one organization was more prepared to taken on the challenges put forward by the Committee
 - b. Croskrey noted the Comprehensive handled the questions presented by the committee very well and had the needed information
 - c. Rasmussen noted that Comprehensive was much more prepared during the Q&A session, and going with Aristo, who has noted provided this type of service before, may push them over their “bandwidth”
 - d. A member of the community stressed it was important to go with a provider that understands what’s being asked of them and ready to go day one
 - e. Michael noted while he still has questions that remain, he feels Comprehensive is better prepared to meet the challenge
 - f. It was also expressed that the contract must lay out what’s expected to ensure required services are provided (eliminating any gray area)
 - g. Olson asked the Substance Abuse Disorder Subcommittee their thoughts on last month’s two presentations
 - i. The score was very “lopsided” in favor of Comprehensive
 - h. Olson asked a procedural question, “how would this go forward”
 - i. Rasmussen advised that three members of the committee should be involved in negotiations of the contract, ensuring that all parties are on the same page; he added this is not a fast process
 - j. Rasmussen added the committee needed to be cautious of additional requirements that could allow a provider to opt out of the contract at a later time
 - k. He noted the committee would want to have preliminary conversations about expectations with Comprehensive to address issues or any concerns that could arise
 - l. Advised that the committee award a contract to Comprehensive to get the process started, so large picture conversations could take place before details are addressed and worked out
 - m. Raymond made a motion: Create workgroup to begin negotiations with Comprehensive Healthcare
 - n. Joel Chavez, Kelly Harnish and Cameron volunteered to serve on workgroup
 - o. Olson noted that specific questions about an agreement would come back to the larger committee for discussion

Public Comment:

It was noted that \$5M in state funding has been approved by the House and Senate for inpatient rehab and needs. The final step is the signature of Governor Inslee.

Olson noted a workgroup is needed to craft priorities to submit to Commissioners

Kelly Harnish talked about the creation of an overdose fatality review group.

- a.) She noted the group would start in May and meet quarterly, starting in July
- b.) The focus would be on prevention
- c.) Packet distributed to those in attendance, which looked at establishing priorities as well as recommendations
- d.) Olson asked how the Behavioral Health Advisory Committee can be helpful; Harnish responded by making sure "we get the right people"
- e.) Harnish added those on the workgroup sign a confidentiality agreement, and HIPA laws are addressed
- f.) Olson stated while this cannot be a committee within the BHA Committee, he encouraged everyone to consider reaching out and getting involved and support this effort

Raymond noted he would like to see an interim Request for Proposal.

- a.) Noted a recent case where law enforcement was called to a male in the bushes throwing rocks, and minutes later, that same man was at a Circle K, requiring police intervention
- b.) "We need a place to sober people up so they can get plugged into the services they need," Raymond said.
- c.) Rasmussen noted he could reach out to United Family Center to see if there is interest in providing such a service
- d.) Raymond added a similar program in Spokane is full, serving 25 individuals

Other Business:

Rasmussen introduced Glenn Vaagen as the new County Communications Coordinator

Olson asked if there was additional business to address; Committee answered no

Meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.