

BENTON-FRANKLIN BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes | April 11, 2024

Call to Order: 2:00 PM

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

Voting Members: Kevin Kennedy, Chad Michael, Kevin Crowley, Erin Petty, Sindi Saunders, BJ Olson, Becky Grohs, Jason Bliss, Kim Lettrick, Mat Clarke (alternate for Benton County – Law Enforcement), Brian Ace, Mark Holyoak

Non-voting Members: Jason Valentine (alternate for Franklin County), Kelly Harnish (alternate for Benton-Franklin Health District), Cameron Fordmeir (alternate for Benton-Franklin Recovery Coalition)

Virtual: Erika Barton, Carla Prock

Approval of Minutes from March 14, 2024: The committee members all reviewed the March 14, 2024, committee meeting minutes. Jason Bliss moved to approve the minutes as presented. Unclear who seconded. Minutes were approved.

Public Comment: No public comment.

Discussion Items:

1. Timeline on Deliverables for the next 12-24 months

- a. This update will be moved to the May meeting.

2. Sobering Center – Lourdes (M. Holyoak, Mauricio Gomez)

- a. Waiting for M. Gonzales to talk to M. Rasmussen regarding the approval of funding.
 - i. Understanding is Franklin County would be contract holder, and Benton County would sub-contract (interlocal agreement)
- b. Ideal goal of 6 months to open, depending on inspections and funding.
- c. Lourdes already has the correct licensure for the center, it would be considered a new branch.
- d. City of Pasco will need to inspect the building and make sure it is up to code
- e. Expectation of minimal renovations being needed, if any. It is assumed Franklin County will manage those renovations.
- f. **Question:** B. Grohs – can that be done in parallel, while waiting for contracts?
 - i. It should be possible, help to prevent further delays.

3. Substance Use Disorder Service Sub-Committee – C. Prock (virtual)

- a. Data gathering on burden on the ED of those individuals affected by substances
 - i. Less than 1% of volume fell into the range of the diagnostic codes related to intoxication, withdrawal, or substance abuse (for 2023)
 - ii. Not in the absence of other diagnosis

- b. **Question:** B. Ace – any approximate cost of that 1%?
 - i. The intent of this data was regarding the volume, so there was no data for costs readily available.
 - ii. Around 100 ED visits attributed to those codes per month.

4. **Mental Health Services Sub-Committee** – updates

- a. No Updates

5. **Communications Sub-Committee** – BJ Olson

- a. May – mental health month
 - i. Radio spots, TV interviews upcoming

6. **Behavioral Health Workforce Development Sub-Committee** – updates

- a. No Updates

Public Comment:

1. **Nancy Roach** – regarding work force development

- o Doug Hughes was speaker at the last coalition meeting. Very much on track to have available for an offering through this coming fall for SUDP certification. Approval on 1st part, waiting for the 2nd. Looking for those who would like to be part of the advisory committee to develop the curriculum.

Other Business:

1. **C. Michael** – Field Response Teams

- a. Is there an update or status on the RFP?
 - i. **S. Saunders** – Only one response; Comprehensive
 - ii. **BJ Olson** – No timeline yet,
 - iii. **S. Saunders** – Believes it needs to be presented to both Benton and Franklin County Commissioners for approval first before the award is given.
- b. Revenues/Expenses?
 - i. **BJ Olson** – will be delivered under the Timelines and Deliverables (next meeting, hopefully)
- c. Requested by **C. Fordmeir** that pre-arrest diversion efforts by recovery navigators be added to the Field Response Team criteria.

2. **J. Bliss** – Different programs running parallel?

- a. **C. Fordmeir** – Would need to work in tandem with first responders and Merit to do a warm handoff in the field for those necessary outreaches/diversions with some sort of tracking.
- b. **Shereen Hunt**, Executive Director of Merit Resource Services
 - i. Program is off the ground and running, still a new program.
 - ii. Currently working primarily with law enforcement, courts, jail
 - 1. Most referrals have been post-arrest.
 - 2. Will take ED social referrals, but not priority until better staffed
 - iii. Benton County is the model, as this type of program isn't happening in other parts of the state yet.
 - iv. Anticipates Sobering Center to be a great resource once available.
 - 1. Wants to partner with everyone to help those in need

3. **BJ Olson** – Emmaus Counseling Center

- a. Annual celebration dinner/fundraiser, upcoming
 - i. All invited as guests

Adjourned: 2:26PM