

Behavioral Health Consortium Quarterly Meeting

Date and Time: 7/14/20
Location: Virtual Meeting

Topic: Welcome and Introductions

Review of previous meeting notes: Previous Meeting Minutes were approved

Discussion/Comments

Topic: (1) Story of Recovery

Presenter: Amanda Carmen from Foundation Recovery, shared her story of recovery. Experienced childhood trauma and at the age of 17 she was ‘saved’ by the Delaware foster care system. She became involved in church through her foster family. She went to college, grad school and became a counselor working in private practice. Due to impact of COVID 19 and the increases in domestic violence, she sees the need to address childhood trauma to lower risks of substance abuse.

Topic: (2) Committee Updates

Access and Treatment: Dr. Gibney & Erin Booker: started Narcan distribution with COVID testing sites at LCC 2 days a week and Cambridge 2 days a week partnered with Connections. A lot of refill & replacements. Increased engagement from community. Working on scheduling a committee meeting soon.

Changing Perception & Stigma: Dr. Thomas & Dave Humes : 1) DSAMH has reconvened regarding awareness and resources 2) naloxone training/distribution has increased messaging 3) develop job fairs and resources, especially if living in recovery – working with state 4) recruit 20 families to assist thru telehealth drug free youth

Data and Policy: Carolyn Petrak & Meghan Walls : agenda derailed by pandemic. Extension of telehealth passed in both houses through until March 2021 – includes telephonic services. Continuing conversation regarding psychiatric advance directions. Would like to assist other committees with policy and data. Delaware has regulation for on-going telehealth services for mental health providers already practicing from out of state

Corrections and Law Enforcement: Tamera Fair & Charles Sawchenko: standardization of post-incarceration assistance (wrap around assistance). There has been updated housing policy which now allows post incarceration to rehome with families. DOC has a current RFP out to assist with transition from DOC to community organization to assist with housing and case mgt. Increasing/strengthening partnerships between police force, schools, & SRO’s. Pilot program at troop 3 with behavioral health case mgt, want to expand to pre-arrest; expanding to troop 7

Education & Prevention: Sydney Garlick: working on mental health screeners & educational opportunities for community organizations

Family & Community Readiness: Dr. Ellison & Wade Jones : reviewed list of mental health resources to send to Elizabeth Romero. Need to create/disseminate information pipeline between committees to provide information/education to public. Having a meeting next week on Psychiatric Advance Directives.

Topic: (3) Delaware Core Presentation

Christine Hanna-Ronald: Presented about the Delaware CORE (Community Outreach, Referral & Early Intervention for High Risk) is a grant funded program which is in partnership with DCYFS. The program targets ages 12-25 who are at clinical high risk for psychosis. The goal is get young people into treatment through referrals to partners such as Nemours and other groups prior to full blown psychosis (hallucination, disorganized thinking, etc). There are many nuanced and specialized interventions therefore it is an interdisciplinary team focused on family.

Topic: (4) Delaware Child Psychiatry Access Program

The Delaware Child Psychiatry Access Program team which consisted of Dr. Richard Margolis, Joseph Hughes and Mindy Webb presented on their HRSA grant program which aims to provide consultation to primary care providers to provide a psychiatric tele-consultation/training to assist with treatment for children. This is a 5-year grant program.

Topic: (5) DSAMH update and Opioid Impact Fee Recommendations

Director Elizabeth Romero: The Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health has partnered with the Food Bank to conduct outreaches. They have handed out about 600 doses of naloxone. A list of the outings has been sent to the Consortium.

Opioid Impact Fee which was passed last legislative session has been receiving funds. Outlined in the legislation the Addiction Action Committee, Behavioral Health Consortium and Overdose System of Care will provide the DHSS secretary with recommendation on how the funds should be use that fall in line with the outlined areas in the original legislation.

The Fund Recommendations fall into 5 buckets: Harm Reduction (naloxone kits); Crisis (withdrawal mgmt) ; Quality Treatment (lock boxes; telehealth) ; Social Determinants (just in time access treatment; respite; housing; food) ; & Special Populations (people of color).

Preparing for another wave of COVID is another major funding concern to ensure that people have continuity of care.

Lt Governor asked for motion to approve recommendations of DSAMH funding recommendations to be sent to DHSS Secretary, with the understanding that priorities are based on population needs.

Motion to Approve: Dr. Gibney

Unanimously approved to accept recommendations as is.

Topic: (6) Public Comment

Harris Marx – lack of housing problem for mental health court programs

Marybeth – is MAT still available at this time? Elizabeth Romero answered with contacting the Hopeline. There are free services in the State – need to go to Help is Here website for support and resources.

Next Meeting: September 16th