

**INYO COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD**

MONDAY, July 13, 2020

10:00-11:15 am

Virtually Held via Zoom

Minutes

Informational Only/No Quorum

CALL TO ORDER

- The Meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m.

INTRODUCTIONS

- All digitally present introduced themselves.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

May 11, 2020: Informational – Supervisor Totheroh moved to approve the minutes. April Eagan seconded the motion, and the minutes were unanimously approved as written.

COMMUNITY & STAFF Virtually PRESENT

Supervisor Dan Totheroh	Gina McKinzey
Dr. Gail Zwier	Emily Faircloth
Peter Charley	Stephanie Tanksley
April Eagan	Mikaela Torres
Vanessa Ruggio	Lisa Trunnell
Colleen McGuire	Lucy Vincent
Jennifer Ray	Chrystina Pope

CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Jane Gillam acting as Chairperson

- Ms. Gillam asked Dr. Gail Zwier as to whether people were invited to attend the upcoming NAMI – Family to Family Education Program training. (See Attachment). Dr. Zwier explained that this training is peer-to-peer, not made for clinicians to attend. However, she expressed that it can provide good support to family members. All persons with lived experience in their families are welcome to attend.
- Ms. Gillam recommended that information about this training be forwarded to the school counseling center, public sector counselors and the Rural Health Clinic in order to notify community members of its availability.
- Ms. Gillam inquired as to the status of a Mental Health First Aid training. Dr. Zwier told the group that it had been suggested to a community partner that their counselor might be trained to become a Trainer. Ms. Gillam expressed an interest in traveling with that person so she can renew her certification. Lisa Trunnell asked whether it might be available via Zoom.

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DIRECTOR'S REMARK

- The state of the division - psychiatry, vacancies in key positions; keeping services relevant: Dr. Zwier shared that we have some major vacancies in our division. These include the positions of Adult Program Chief, MHSA Coordinator Position, Jail Nurse, and Social Worker IV or Psychotherapist. Additionally, due to promotions of some of our office personnel, our Office Technician III and one of our Office clerk positions are also open.
- Chrystina Pope, our Child and Family Chief, has been providing clinical support for the adult team and for the SUD team. Furthermore, Vanessa Ruggio is acting as Wellness Center Manager. This has been very beneficial for our team as a short term response.
- Psychiatry, three prong approach: Dr. Zwier informed the group that we have received 3 responses to our Request for Proposals. In addition, we are exploring a partnership with San Bernardino County who is willing to do a MOU with us to provide psychiatry services for us in a Regional Model, sharing .5FTE (two providers providing a half time equivalent). They will take all the necessary trainings and they will charge us at cost for the psychiatrist, which could represent cost savings. Similar to our circumstances, they also have remote areas and are therefore interested in developing telemedicine further. We are continuing to recruit for an in-person psychiatrist, with other community partners to recruit someone who, between ICBH and that partner, the psychiatrist could have full time work here in Inyo County.
- Dr. Zwier told the group about how we have needed to be creative about bringing people on board, and about focusing on what sorts of treatment are most beneficial to the population we serve. Supervisor Totheroh inquired as to how far along we are in the hiring process and whether we have an idea of how it is going. Dr. Zwier shared that both the Adult Program Chief & MHSA Coordinator positions have been flown for 4 months without candidates. She posed these questions to the group:
 - How can we get creative in recruiting?
 - What else do we need to do to get the word out there?Ms. Trunnell suggested trying radio advertising. Mikaela Torres told the group that she is looking at places to recruit this coming week; such as colleges and other places.
- The impact of Covid on trauma. Dr. Zwier explained that trauma is like a wound. With Covid, people are feeling re-traumatized. She told the group that although the division has not progressed to the next step in opening offices, clinical staff is meeting with clients in the community, in addition to providing remote counseling. She explained that Zoom can be fatiguing, and that it can make it more difficult for the counselor to read what's going on. She said that you have to ask more questions and stay focused on each person. Zoom isn't optimal for everyone but has still kept our services available. Some people have expressed that they love Zoom! The need for technology is still a factor as well.

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PUBLIC COMMENT

Pertaining to any item on the agenda –

- The state of the division - Chrystina Pope enthusiastically shared an intention she's been practicing with the group – “live in the Joy of Finding new Solutions!” Supervisor Totheroh expressed appreciation for the intention and said he plans to adopt it also.
- Safe Parking: Ms. Gillam asked about our Behavioral Health staff's involvement in the Safe Parking being offered in our community to help homeless persons to shelter in place during the Covid Pandemic. Dr. Zwier shared that, until recently, some of our case managers had been taking turns with persons from Probation. Currently, a Temp agency has staffed it. Supervisor Totheroh explained to the group that Safe Parking was mandated by the State to address the issue of where homeless persons are to go when they don't have a place to call home. The County and IMACA collaborated to meet this need by establishing the Safe Parking.
- Again, as part of a county rotation, Wellness Center staff are picking up and delivering Food for persons in quarantine or recovering from Covid19: Ms. Gillam asked about how persons get placed in a hotel to recover from Covid. Ms. Trunnell offered the following explanation: these can be out-of-towners, people with small children or elderly or other at risk persons at home. This is a community response, not related to mental health issues.
 - Supervisor Dan Totheroh shared – this was prearranged a few rooms here and there even before hotels were open – for healthcare workers who didn't want to go back home to expose their families.
 - Dr. Zwier shared – we also used homeless funds to put homeless persons with mental illness in hotels.
- Outdoor Program - Jane shared that she is studying the effects of educating children outdoors – having a multi-generational presence is most effective. April Eagan shared that it is difficult to match mentors and mentees at this time. They are also waiting to hear about school to determine the lunch pal program this year.

REPORTS AND ACTION ITEMS

QI Committee Meeting Presented by Mikaela Torres:

- External Quality Review Organization desk review – two weeks ago. We did a desk review, which is different than previous reviews in that it was done remotely. We are waiting for findings. We anticipate a CAP (Corrective Action Plan). We are working on capturing 1st offered appointments. Mikaela asked that this be kept on next month's Agenda.
- New member to the Analyst team – Ralph is new – he is working with Kristen, learning about social services-related work right now but will be working on behavioral health projects also.
- Rep Payee Review taking place this Thursday. Mikaela will report out on the results.

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PROGRESS HOUSE RESIDENT MEETING REPORT

presented by Gina McKinzey:

- Population this past month for June
7 Total Residents; all healthy and well/ 1 respite and 6 long-term residents. More testing is required before new residents can be accepted.
- Mental Health Block Grant
- Activities & Groups
 - Activities are at a minimum right now. Zoom groups are going really well, some folks are getting help with reading and GED.

WELLNESS CENTERS: Vanessa Ruggio shared some of the things Wellness Center staff is doing to assist during the pandemic:

- Field based services/ assistance with safe parking/sheltering – Doors are still closed, but people can sign up for showers and laundry.
- Case managers are meeting at the park or over the phone.
- Helping with safe parking
- Helping with Grove Street – delivering medication or making sure they are getting their physical health needs met.
- Rep Payee program is continuing too – case managers work with clients
- Picking up & Food delivery for persons recovering from Covid19
- Stakeholder input

YOUTH SERVICES: Presented by Chrystina Pope

- Admissions – 15 new referrals for families, starting to do PCIT in office with cleaning protocol.
- Clinicians are providing services in the field (Adult and Youth)

ADULT SERVICES: Presented by Chrystina Pope and Dr. Zwier:

- Chrystina Pope is providing clinical oversight. Clinicians are seeing their clients and doing lots of intakes.
- Dr. Zwier shared that there will be a meeting this afternoon with Darcia Blackdeer-Lent, who oversees the LPS conservatorship program. She told the group that they will be discussing whether there are alternative ways to pursue LPS conservatorship for those who need it most but seldom meet the “crisis” criteria for involuntary hospitalization. Persons with mental illness who are chronically homeless, in and out of jail, dealing with substance abuse and other co-occurring medical conditions. The focus will be on potentially conserving persons who have been in and out of jail multiple times. Ms. Gillam voiced support to explore alternative strategies.
- Treatment Services – Dr. Zwier shared that the SUD Team has been doing DUI Zoom for about a month. Our staff has done a good job in keeping the program going. Other treatment services have also been continued, including offering individual treatment as well as groups.

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SUD Prevention Services: received from April Eagan

- Mentor Program - Some concerns about the mentor program and the upcoming year. It has been a struggle to connect mentors and mentees. The schools (LPP) are unsure about what the plan is to reopen. Unknown if the schools are going to want visitors to come to school to visit with their LP.
 - We do have two more volunteers that are going to have their background checked. We currently have 6 unmatched mentors. The health issue has made even harder to connect. The issue before and still is getting the parent(s) to agree to sign up their child for the program. The mentor program is on a little bit of a simmer mode, efforts are made still trying stay connected to all mentors and mentees as much as possible.
- Outdoor Program - On another note - We had to shift gears with this program as well we have started a family activities program in collaboration with Behavioral Health. We have two activities planned per week and had our first one last week. The venues are Bishop City Park, COSA trail and Mill Pond Park. We chose these locations for ease of access for families. We have agreed that to insure everyone's health it would be wisest not provide transportation for families to reduce exposure.
 - We have also worked with OV CDC with their Outdoor Program. The Lone Pine site asked us for some consultation on their programs and we also provided a Zoom presentation for the Bishop site on outdoor activities for their families.

OLD BUSINESS

- Using community meetings to gather input - MHSA Plan – Dr. Zwier told the group that we are still having our collaborative teams gather the input we need for MHSA.

NEW BUSINESS

- Dr. Zwier posed these questions for the group to consider – Should we push forward and try to get the MHSA plan in, or wait until 20-21? What else do we need to do to keep on track to keep things moving? She said “It has been challenging to get people to come to give feedback about these things.”

AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

The next meeting to be virtually held will be held on August 10, 2020 at 10 am.

The meeting adjourned at 11:06 am.

Transcribed by:

Lucy Vincent
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