

INYO COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD
MONDAY, October 12, 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 10:02 a.m.

INTRODUCTIONS

All participants virtually present introduced themselves.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

September 14, 2020: Informational – Gina McKinzey moved, and all present were in favor, of approving the minutes.

COMMUNITY & STAFF Virtually PRESENT

| | |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| Supervisor Dan Totheroh | Gina McKinzey |
| Dr. Gail Zwier | Dan David |
| Stephanie Tanksley | Mikaela Torres |
| Lynn Martin | Vanessa Ruggio |
| Jennifer Ray | Lucy Vincent |

CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Gina McKinzey acting as Chairperson

DIRECTOR'S REMARK

Dr. Zwier noted that, due to the pandemic, this is the 7th month we have been conducting BHAB meetings virtually via Zoom. She shared how ICBH staff has adapted to the circumstances as much as one can and many clients receive their services remotely or in the community.

Our child and family team is diligently working to determine how to best provide services to kids as the situation continues to change between the onset of the pandemic, to summer, and now to the current back-to-school season. ICBH staff is working hard, reconnecting with the kids as they adapt to this new stage. Dr. Zwier remarked how education has really had a difficult, especially for younger kids, or for those kids who need extra help. She shared that the team is trying to provide support services that used to be done in person, while kids were at school.

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Due to the change of weather, Dr. Zwier continued; which went from too hot to too cold to meet outside, ICBH staff members are looking at ways to continue our services with whatever modality works best. Staff continue to mask and use social distancing, looking for alternative meeting sites.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dan David shared that Rural Health Clinic is providing child psychiatry via telemedicine. Dr. Zwier remarked that Inyo County Behavioral Health is happy to hear about this and would like to talk to them more about that provider and about a possible collaboration to meet the needs of the kids in our community. She also shared that Dr. Schneider's commitment to transition clients with a warm handoff when she retires.

Mikaela Torres advised the group of our need to congratulate Vanessa Ruggio as Wellness Center Supervisor.

REPORTS AND ACTION ITEMS

QI Committee Meeting Report Presented by Mikaela Torres and Stephanie Tanksley:

- Mikaela Torres shared with the group that we are in a new quarter as of October 1st. She stated that she is working on reports to see how we did in a full year period. She shared some exciting news about how the Analysts have worked with our electronic health record company to create dashboards which will produce data in a reader-friendly format. She shared that this is the last quarter she will need to prepare the report manually. This report will be ready for the November meeting.
- Stephanie Tanksley shared the following about the SAPG & DMC Reviews: The Analysts are in the middle of working with the State on Corrective Action Plans (CAPs). They are also working on Performance Improvement Plans (PIPs). The Analysts will be meeting about PIPs again this week. Triennial is coming up this year in July. Everything is pushed back due to Covid19. They are awaiting the final draft of this protocol. This will help us prepare for the review.
- Diversity/Inclusion Committee. Dr. Zwier shared there is a need to look into the inequitable impact of the pandemic on persons of color in our community and to look at inequity at all levels as it relates to our mission as an organization. Specific to our community are the impact on Latinx and Native American persons. There was discussion about the need to create and expand participation in action around inclusion and diversity and to update our Cultural Competency Plan to reflect our efforts to address inequities on all levels. The PIQA Manager, Stephanie Tanksley invited the group to share suggestions for recruitment, during this meeting or to contact her or Dr. Zwier.

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SUD Prevention Services: received from April Eagan

- Mentor Program – Highlighting the work of Tim Villanueva and Emily Faircloth:
 - Tim Villanueva has had discussions with school admin to allow mentor coordinator to visit youth in school to help re-engage (this will hopefully be a big boost for the youth and program).
 - Emily Faircloth completed two video presentations for virtual use on the topics of Cannabis and Youth and Coping Skills. Emily has accepted a new job and is moving out of the area. We wish her well!
 - Our new Prevention Specialist in this program will be Jorge Alvarado. He will transition into the role the first week of November. Welcome, Jorge!

PROGRESS HOUSE RESIDENT MEETING REPORT presented by Gina McKinzey, Progress House Manager:

- Population this past month remained steady at 7 Total Residents with no recent respites placed due to Covid19 restrictions.
- Crisis response – Gina McKinzey reported that recently we've been getting more calls from persons from out of the area. Sometimes staff can be on the phone for an hour or more. Pam Blackwell, LMFT conducted training for our on-call staff re how to handle difficult calls that come in via our crisis line. The training addressed when to offer resources and when to end a call. Gina reported this training helped on-call, front-office and Progress House staff, giving some really good tips.

WELLNESS CENTERS: Vanessa Ruggio shared the following:

- People have signed up for showers and laundry.
- People have also signed up for case management services
- Staff is assisting with medication delivery and with COVID19-related meal delivery
- Vanessa is also covering shifts at Progress House due to COVID-related challenges in staffing.
- Wellness Center recently opened for 1 hour blocks in which 1 client at a time can come in.

YOUTH SERVICES: Received from Chrystina Pope, LMFT and presented by Dr. Zwier

Youth Services

- Child and Family team have begun to update their admissions process. The front office is coordinating first occurred and accepted appointments. We have quite a few new admissions for the month of September.
- MDT meetings with probation/JKBS/FIRST have resumed and a new MDT regarding online learning has been formed to assist agencies in supporting at

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risk youth identified by the schools. The child and family team continues to respond the changing schedules of youth in schools and supporting them, especially with the rise in anxiety that is expressed within some family systems surrounding this transition towards online learning and modified schedules.

- Both the adult and child and family team are collaborating more around individuals/clients who are incarcerated by supporting their children and parenting needs.
- Orion and Carri continue to offer weekly groups at the progress house regarding music/art and health/life skills.
- Perla Gastelum has accepted the position of psychotherapist for the child and family team. She had previously been volunteering about 20 hours a week gaining her traineeship hours for her MA program and towards licensure as a MFT. She is supervised by Chrystina Pope. She is Spanish-speaking and has already provided services to an underserved, Spanish-speaking population. We are excited to have her as a part of our team.
- Dr. Zwier added that both Maricela Baez, new Spanish-speaking office manager, and Perla Gastelum help Spanish speakers feel more comfortable about reaching out for services.

Adult Services

- Adult services had multiple new admissions/intakes.
- They continue to see their clients via telehealth/phone/ outside and occasionally in the office; yet the smoke, due to recent fires, has shifted more sessions via zoom. They are also meeting in the park and other outdoor spaces.
- The clinical team has re-familiarized themselves with the referral process providing a more integrative and supportive approach.
- The Adult clinicians continue to gain hours and supervision towards licensure.
- DBT group via zoom continues.

SUD Treatment Services

- SUD continues to be in planning stage of expanding services in collaboration with Prevention.

OLD BUSINESS

MHSA Plan – Dr. Zwier reminded participants that it was decided, with input from this group, to continue our 19-20 FY plan this year. We have slowly started our planning process for the new plan that will be implemented in July, 2021.

Due to the fiscal impact of COVID, Dr. Zwier told the group that we are continuing to look at our budget and the deliverables/outcomes for our programs and contracts.

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Lastly, Dr. Zwier highlighted the fact that Mikaela Torres has been learning the ins and outs of MHSA to make sure we can plan appropriately. She stated, “We are looking at Outcomes and how we can best track those”, and left us with the following quote, in order to illustrate ICHHS-BH’s goal: “The right services at the right time in the right modality at the right spot.”

NEW BUSINESS

AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

The QIC Report

The next meeting to be virtually held will be held on November 9, 2020 at 10 am.

The meeting adjourned at 10:52 am.

Transcribed by:

Lucy Vincent