



BHC September Meeting

For our September meeting, BHC will be going virtual! We will meet on [Tuesday, September 8th at 8:30 AM](#) for a virtual meeting. As always, please register beforehand if you plan to attend, the registration link can be found [here](#). Once you register, you will receive a link to access the meeting. We will also send out links to all registrants a few days before the meeting as a reminder. We look forward to our next meeting and cannot wait to see everyone again, even if we'll be together on a computer screen!



New DuPage COVID-19 Testing Site Open

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, a crucial tool to stay aware of its spread in our communities is through widespread testing. In addition to testing that is available at hospitals and many retailers, DuPage County and DuPage County Health Department are excited to announce a new test site at the DuPage County Fairgrounds, opening on Tuesday, June 16th. In collaboration with the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA), this test site will be open Tuesday through Saturday, 7:00am to 3:00pm, or until 400 tests have been completed in a day. Insurance is not required to receive a test at this site. To learn more about the new DuPage County test site, please visit [this page](#). For the latest data and information about Coronavirus, please continue to visit the health department's [COVID-19 Information site](#).



Updates from DuPage County Correctional Center

Since the initial surge of COVID-19 cases began in mid-March, the Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) pilot program at the DuPage County Correctional Center (DCCC) has been limited. DuPage courts have taken precautionary measures by limiting the cases seen, which has in turn led to a decrease in approved court orders for participation in the pilot. However, while there's been a decrease in volume due to courts mostly being postponed, a few new referrals have come through drug court who have been able to receive Vivitrol before being released from DCCC.



Reentry programming at DCCC has been impacted as well. The jail population has been reduced in an effort to lessen the risk of spreading COVID-19, and transfers from other agencies into DCCC have sharply declined. As such, there have not been as many new inmates, and therefore fewer opportunities to set up new inmates with linkages. Mental Health Reentry Program Manager Amy Kohlmann is still working with clients using tablets accessible through the Correctional Center, and she is still linking inmates to resources (including a recent emphasis on telehealth) when able. She also consults on a daily basis with the DCCC's mental health team, as well as daily classification meetings to help identify those who would benefit from linkage assistance.

The Recovery Pod for inmates at DCCC has also changed formats since March. Movement of inmates has been limited when possible to reduce disease transmission, which limits the number of inmates that are able to be in the Recovery Pod at one time. Forensic Behavioral Health staff from the health department complete individual phone appointments with those in the Recovery Pod and provide daily and weekly assignments to inmates. Staff hope to be back in the jail shortly to resume in-person groups.

While in-person visits have been temporarily suspended, The Post-Crisis Response Team has continued to receive a high number of requests for assistance (12 new referrals were received in the first week of June alone). Calls for mental health concerns have been consistent, and even grown since COVID arrived in our community. While not able to visit in person, the PCRT is still working hard by phone to provide support and linkage to treatment. Planning for in-person visits is in progress.

Mobile Crisis Response Pilot

Since the March BHC meeting and the ensuing COVID-19 emergency, the Mobile Crisis Response pilot program has continued its vital work. Downers Grove Police Department officially joined as the fourth site, alongside existing partnerships with Lombard, Westmont, and Wheaton PDs. The largest change to the program was that community-based evaluations (which normally take place on site with an officer and an individual in crisis) have been conducted remotely via phone or video. Usage of the pilot decreased compared to previous months, but there were 10 total referrals from March 1 through May 31.



BHC Action Plan Timeline

The 2020-22 Action Plan for the Behavioral Health Collaborative was previously scheduled to be reviewed and voted on by the BHC Executive Committee in May 2020. Since there was not a May meeting of the Executive Committee, the Action Plan will be voted on during the Executive Committee's next meeting in August. We will continue to modify and expand upon the objectives that were presented to the BHC in March. Included in these modifications will be alterations to timelines due to any unanticipated setbacks caused by COVID-19. If approved, the Action Plan will then be presented to the BHC during the September virtual meeting.

