



Behavioral Health Collaborative Virtual Meeting

Tuesday, September 8, 2020

Welcome Back & Opening Remarks

Scott Kaufmann began the meeting at 8:32am. Karen Ayala, Executive Director of the DuPage County Health Department, then presented the opening remarks and welcomed new members and Illinois State Representative Conroy to the meeting.

Behavioral Health Legislative Update

Illinois State Representative Deb Conroy (46th District), Chairperson of the House Mental Health Committee, was experiencing technological issues and was, therefore, unable to present a behavioral health legislative update. She hopes to be able to participate in another Behavioral Health Collaborative meeting in the future.

Recent Suicide and Overdose Death Trends

The DuPage County Coroner, Dr. Richard Jorgensen, provided an update on the recent suicide and overdose death trends in DuPage County.

- Once the shelter-in-place order began in March, there were three consecutive weeks of overdoses involving different mixtures of substances. This has led to a 51% increase in overdose deaths in DuPage County to date. The demographics of those that died of an overdose during the shelter-in-place period are similar to the usual trend of overdoses in DuPage County, with most victims being male. There has been an increase in overdoses among those aged 60-years-old and older.
- Suicides in DuPage County increased 21% during the shelter-in-place order. Suicide trends for after the shelter-in-place order was lifted are expected to be available within the next few weeks.

Review and Reengagement

Review of Prior Six Months

COVID-19 began affecting DuPage County soon after the last Behavioral Health Collaborative Meeting in March. Because of its substantial impact on the community, progress with the Behavioral Health Collaborative has paused in certain areas over the last six months. The Behavioral Health Collaborative and its subcommittees were unable to meet in-person due to the unprecedented circumstances, all clinicians deemed 'nonessential' were temporarily removed from the DuPage County Correctional Center, DuPage County Health Department clinicians were unable to conduct on-site crisis evaluations, the DuPage Correction Center Screening Tool project had to be suspended to focus on preventing disease transmission, and all EMS Mental Health First Aid trainings were cancelled. Now that the shelter-in-place order has been lifted, the Behavioral Health Collaborative plans to work towards resuming these standard operations.

Subcommittee Plans

Before the hiatus, the Central Receiving Center Subcommittee focused on expanding access to transportation and were deciding whether or not a sobering unit would be a beneficial component of a Central Receiving Center. To assist in these efforts, members of the subcommittee facilitated a phone interview with an administrator of a San Antonio program and were successful in gaining insight on what staffing considerations and resources would be necessary to accommodate a sobering unit. Members of the subcommittee were also able to meet with someone from Elite Ambulance to calculate what costs would be associated with transporting clients to the Central Receiving Center by ambulance, to which it was determined this was not a cost-effective method of transportation. Ridesharing options, like Uber Health and Lyft Health, have also been brought up for discussion. This subcommittee will reconvene in October.

The Post-Incarceration Supports Subcommittee is divided into three separate work groups. The first has been working to provide medication to those in the DuPage County Jail and its current status, post COVID, remains unknown. The second work group has been working to connect recently released inmates to Federally Qualified Health Centers and are currently developing a referral process for those that are not DuPage County residents. The third work group has been conducting a literature review on justice-based housing programs and are currently developing a list of questions for the Council of State Governments in regard to a large literature review they conducted in the past. While the justice-based housing workgroup will be continuing their research, there are no plans to reconvene the Post-Incarceration Supports Subcommittee at this time.

2020-22 Action Plan

The Behavioral Health Collaborative Executive Board recently adopted a modified action plan for Fiscal Year 2020 to Fiscal Year 2022 during their August meeting to accommodate time lost during the stay-at-home order. A spreadsheet will be added to the Behavioral Health Collaborative website to further assist in monitoring and completing goals and objectives throughout the grant period. A copy of the modified action plan will be attached with the meeting minutes.

BHC Project Updates

Mobile Crisis Response Pilot

The Behavioral Health Collaborative continues to work with Downers Grove, Lombard, Westmont, and Wheaton police departments on the Mobile Crisis Response Pilot. Through this pilot program, individuals experiencing what appears to be a mental health crisis are either dropped off at Crisis Residential or met on-site by someone at Crisis Residential to receive mental health services. The police departments reported a decrease in calls during the stay-at-home order, but the Behavioral Health Collaborative is expecting an increased need over the next few months as the COVID-19 response continues. During the stay-at-home order, no onsite evaluations took place.

There was a total of 26 referrals between March and August of 2020, with most occurring in June and July. Of these 26 referrals, 13 were dropped off at Crisis Residential, 5 were scheduled non-urgent, 4 were contacted by phone, 3 transported to an Emergency Department, and 1 was classified as other.

DuPage Correction Center Screening Tool

The goal of this initiative is to implement mental health and substance use screening tools at the DuPage County Correction Center, to be completed at intake for all inmates. This would provide more information about who should be receiving additional follow-up. The following tools have been validated and recommended by SAMHSA for use in correctional settings:

- Brief Jail Mental Health Screen (BJMHS)
- TCU Drug Screen V (TCUDS V)

The Behavioral Health Collaborative is working with DuPage County Correction Center leadership to implement this initiative in Quarter 4 of 2020, using paper screening tools.

EMS Mental Health First Aid

EMS Mental Health First Aid trainings will be on hold through the end of 2020 because they must be held in-person. In 2021, the Behavioral Health Collaborative plans to offer free quarterly trainings at the health department, offer onsite trainings to individual DuPage County EMS departments, and have an additional two trainers attend train-the-trainer sessions so that there are a total of four EMS Mental Health First Aid trainers in DuPage by the end of 2021.

Other Updates

Mental Health Reentry has been back onsite as of late June, and Recovery Pod classes are back to five days per week. The Crisis Intervention Team trained 45 officers between January and March, before the stay-at-home order. They are now back on schedule for the remainder of 2020.

COVID-19 Update

Case Counts

The DuPage County Health Department, along with DuPage County GIS, have developed an interactive COVID-19 case map, which can be found at www.dupagehealth.org. The dashboard provides current case counts, separated by sex, age group, and municipality to provide a greater level of understanding into how the COVID-19 pandemic is unfolding across our communities. DuPage County is currently seeing an influx of cases in the 15- to 19-year-old age group, and a slight decrease in cases among the older age groups.

Current Response Activities

The DuPage County Health Department is currently working to provide guidance to schools and businesses so they can reopen safely, bolster contact tracing and case investigation abilities by hiring additional staff, initiate mass vaccination planning, and develop a work group that can assist in addressing the health inequities of COVID-19.

In an attempt to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, the DuPage County Health Department is also maintaining a temporary alternative housing site for residents of DuPage County. The purpose of the temporary alternative housing site is to provide a short-term (up to 14-day) stay for occupants who have exhausted all other means to self-quarantine or isolate. If you have any questions or would like to refer a DuPage County resident, please send an email to temphousing@dupagehealth.org and someone will get back to you within 24 hours.

Ongoing Messaging

The health department continues to convey the following messages to the public, with plans to highlight the importance of getting your flu shot in the upcoming weeks:

- **“Practice The 3Ws”** —Wear a mask, Watch your distance, Wash your hands.
- **“Answer The Call”** — DuPage County Health Department Case Investigators and Contact Tracers are reaching out to individuals who have COVID-19 and their close contacts. Through these calls, they ensure that anyone who has COVID-19, as well as their close contacts, has the necessary support to isolate or quarantine safely. It is important for everyone to do their part by answering the call and providing our staff with all the information needed to help slow the spread of COVID-19 in our communities.

Available Community Resources

DuPage County offers a free community-based COVID-19 testing site at the DuPage County Complex for anyone regardless of symptoms or insurance. The testing site is open Monday through Friday from 7:00am – 12:00pm or until the daily capacity has been reached. A message is posted on all health department social media pages when capacity has been reached for the day. The State has approved operation of this testing site through the end of October.

The DuPage County Health Department's Business Response Team provides DuPage County businesses with guidance on protecting employees and clients from spreading disease during the pandemic, ensuring proper cleaning and disinfection, providing the current best practices on safe operations, and specific information and resources a business may need to operate safely. If you are looking for information on how to keep your agency running safely, please contact covid19business@dupagehealth.org.

Questions and Other Community Efforts

A meeting member asked if the September 8th meeting was being recorded. While this meeting was not recorded, there is a plan to potentially start recording meetings in the future. For any questions regarding the Behavioral Health Collaborative, please email Scott Kaufmann at Scott.Kaufmann@dupagehealth.org. No additional community efforts were brought up for discussion.

The next Behavioral Health Collaborative Meeting will be on Tuesday, December 8th from 8:30am – 10:00am via Zoom. A registration link will be sent out in the next week.