



Behavioral Health Collaborative Meeting Minutes

December 8, 2020

8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Welcome & Opening Remarks

Scott Kaufmann began the meeting at 8:32am. Karen Ayala, Executive Director of the DuPage County Health Department, presented opening remarks about the necessity for proper mental health assistance for everyone both during and after the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. It was remarked that this was the highest attendance of any BHC meeting to date, and all new participants were welcomed.

Zero Suicide Framework

Kathy Carey provided background information about the Zero Suicide framework (more information available on the [Zero Suicide website](#)). Kathy pointed out that often, people that die by suicide often have touchpoints with emergency departments and mental health providers in the months before the suicide occurs. Zero Suicide is introduced as a framework for a long-term commitment by multiple agencies in vastly different sectors to work collaboratively to reduce the risk of suicide in our communities. It is not a one-time training, but rather an ongoing, evolving effort. Kathy mentioned that even though one dedicated clinician can effect change positively, we need to change the system in which our professionals operate to truly make lasting change and prevent individuals from falling through the cracks. This cannot be done without individuals with lived experience, nor leaders that can drive organizational change at their own spheres of influence. The seven core components of Zero Suicide are:

- Leadership commitment
- Standardized screening and risk assessment
- Suicide care management plan
- Workforce development and training
- Effective, evidence-based treatment
- Follow-up during care transitions
- Ongoing quality improvement and data collection

The DuPage County Health Department held a two-day Zero Suicide Academy in September 2020 which included participants from the health department, area hospital systems, and behavioral health providers. The Academy reinforced that the only way to achieve zero suicides in our county is to link our organizations that are all trying to solve this issue at the same time. By working in the same direction, we will be able to reduce duplicative work. Therefore, the BHC will be creating a Zero Suicide subcommittee, which will hold its first meeting in January 2021. Individuals interested in joining the subcommittee (or learning more about what the subcommittee will entail) should email scott.kaufmann@dupagehealth.org before December 18th, 2020 to be added to the list. Scott Kaufmann will then send a scheduling poll to everyone interested to find the best time to meet in January.

Subcommittee & Project Updates

The Central Receiving Center subcommittee has been meeting monthly and most recently was researching appropriate transportation options both to and from a potential CRC. In October, the subcommittee received a presentation from Tony Navickas and Nicole Brooks at Kaizen Health. The presentation covered the main

features of Kaizen, and a little about what a prospective partner would do to begin working with them. Kaizen Health is not itself a transportation company, but rather a platform that connects to several rideshare and transportation companies concurrently. Charges incur on a per-ride basis and the rides are summarized in a monthly invoice given to the funding agency. In all, the subcommittee agreed that Kaizen Health seems like a great option to pursue when a CRC is established. The subcommittee has concluded work for now on its previous two priorities of transportation and a sobering unit. At the November meeting, the subcommittee agreed to shift focus towards seeking ways to change policies that do not allow for involuntary mental health admissions during a crisis, as well as the mandate that if an EMS provider arrives on the scene of a mental health crisis, they must transport the individual to a hospital. The subcommittee will report its initial findings in these areas at the March meeting.

The DuPage County Correctional Center (DCCC) is still working to implement paper versions of the Brief Jail Mental Health Screen and TCU Drug Screen V in order to improve mental health and substance use screening at the jail. The goal is still to implement the screens before the end of 2020 so that a baseline period of data collection can occur at the beginning of 2021.

Other BHC initiatives/programs like the Mobile Crisis Response and the DCCC's recovery pod and mental health reentry are still running despite increased COVID cases. Reentry assistance has been growing with recent increases in referrals within the jail.

COVID-19 Update

Chris Hoff from the DuPage County Health Department provided a brief update on ongoing COVID activity in DuPage and shared resources with the BHC about how to stay tuned as the pandemic continues. Chris first showed up-to-date metrics on DCHD's [COVID Dashboard](#), noting that we continue to see steady increases in case activity, hospitalizations, and deaths due to COVID-19. Information was then shared about the two [community test sites](#) in Wheaton and Villa Park, as well as how to look up other local sites. Finally, Chris shared that DCHD is preparing for the first wave of COVID vaccines for health care workers most at risk and showed the [DCHD vaccine page](#) to pay attention to as the vaccine becomes closer to a reality.

Questions & Other Community Efforts

A number of groups shared information about upcoming events. Those that are still available for sign up are listed below. Anybody interested in joining the BHC should send an email to scott.kaufmann@dupagehealth.org and they will be added to the email list. The next BHC meeting will be conducted via Zoom on Tuesday, March 9th, 2021 at 8:30am. An invite will be sent out to the BHC mailing list. The meeting was adjourned at 9:57am.

- DuPage County Health Department is hosting a virtual seminar for hospital providers on the morning of December 17th from 9:00am to 12:00pm that is aimed at preventing opioid overdoses. Expert speakers will be on hand to share their experiences and discuss how to most effectively navigate barriers to providing naloxone and Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) at a hospital. Registration is required and available at: https://events-na2.adobeconnect.com/content/connect/c1/916603251/en/events/event/shared/2156351027/event_1anding.html?sco-id=2156340344& charset =utf-8
- West Towns Chapter of The Links is hosting a virtual event titled 'Staying Healthy Emotionally and Physically' regarding keeping mental health in check during the pandemic. Experts in telemedicine and mental health will be presenting their perspectives about how to receive appropriate care virtually during the COVID-19 pandemic. The event is December 17th at 7:00pm and registration is available at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/staying-healthy-emotionally-and-physically-tickets-131151288033>