



Behavioral Health Collaborative Meeting Minutes

June 8, 2021

8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Welcome & Opening Remarks

Scott Kaufmann began the meeting at 8:33am. Karen Ayala, Executive Director of the DuPage County Health Department, presented opening remarks about encouraging trends for COVID case activity and vaccinations, and how important it is to redouble efforts to improve behavioral health in DuPage at this critical time.

988 Mental Health Crisis Number

Lori Carnahan presented on the exciting shift towards a national 988 number for a mental health crisis. Lori shared that, currently, the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (NSPL) works as a network of crisis centers across the nation providing free assistance to callers 24/7. Calls to the NSPL (1-800-273-8255) are routed to the nearest call center (the nearest to us is the DuPage County Health Department center that has been operational since 2012). In 2019, DCHD took 5,077 calls, which were 25.9% of the 19,586 calls across the state. Call volume to the helpline in Illinois has increased by 52% between 2016 and 2019. Additional metrics and information about the lifeline can be found on [this report](#).

There has been a national movement to establish a simpler mental health emergency number, as usage of NSPL has steadily grown. Sadly, there has also been a 30% increase in the national death by suicide rate since 1999. Suicide can be prevented in many cases by effective intervention, since for every person that dies by suicide, there are 280 people that seriously consider suicide but do not kill themselves. 988 is designed to be an easy-to-remember direct line to trained counselors for someone who is considering suicide (or a loved one of someone at risk). When properly supported, a 988 crisis line can not only assist individuals at risk of dying by suicide, but also reduce health care spending, reduce usage of law enforcement, and help end stigma towards individuals that request mental health treatment.

The FCC voted on July 16, 2020 to operationalize a national 988 number by July 16, 2022. This exciting development comes with a highlighted need to quickly plan out how to best provide 988 services. The Illinois Department of Human Services/Division of Mental Health (IDHS/DMH) received a planning grant from Vibrant Emotional Health (the administrator of NSPL) to partner with local call centers and establish a coalition to guide the rollout of 988 in Illinois. DuPage is excited to participate in this group and will report out relevant findings to the BHC as they are developed in the group. More information about the statewide planning for 988 can be found [here](#).

BHC Project Updates

Eirene shared that the CRC Subcommittee paused meeting for three months while members investigated the ways that states which have successful CRCs differ from Illinois. In May, Scott and Kathy met with representatives from the Florida Department of Children and Families, the agency that oversees that state's CRCs. Florida uses their Baker Act to support temporary involuntary holds for up to 72 hours. One of the main takeaways are that Florida created countywide transportation agreements between all local authorities (fire, police, MH treatment providers, dispatchers, etc) before a CRC was operational to minimize confusion of who would respond in certain situations. The CRC Subcommittee reconvened and discussed these findings in May,

agreeing that they must now try to get a representative from the DuPage State's Attorney's Office to help clarify whether there is any way for similar involuntary holds to occur at a prospective DuPage CRC.

The Zero Suicide Subcommittee has been meeting monthly since March in order to learn about how they can best implement the Zero Suicide framework at their own organizations and, ultimately, share that knowledge with the rest of the BHC and DuPage County. The brainstormed gaps in our local suicide prevention resources from the March BHC meeting have been used to kickstart discussion on what would be most feasible to change. As the group meets to share progress, they will also try to develop recommendations that will be periodically shared so anyone can follow their path to implementing Zero Suicide.

The Post-Crisis Response Team has a new clinician, Rachel Ibrahim. Rachel began in March and the PCRT has seen 47 referrals through the first five months of 2021, the same number of referrals as the first five months of 2020 despite a two month pause as a new PCRT clinician was being identified and trained. The DuPage County Correctional Facility has received funding through IDHS/SUPR and Human Management Associates to support a learning collaborative centered around expanding Medication Assisted Recovery (MAR) at DCCF. The Sheriff's Office is the lead agency for the collaborative and will be partnering through the end of 2021 with the Health Department, the Department of Probation & Court Services, and Stonybrook Center to learn ways to feasibly improve MAR within the jail.

The first set of terms for members of the BHC Executive Committee are coming to an end on June 30, 2021. The next two-year terms for each member will run from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2023. Lori Carnahan will continue to serve as Co-Chair, as will a representative yet to be identified from the DuPage County Sheriff's Office. At the May CRC Subcommittee meeting, that group selected Eirene Boulougouris to serve another term as representative to the Executive Committee. A representative has not yet been selected from the Zero Suicide Subcommittee but will be chosen in July. The Post-Incarceration Supports Subcommittee is no longer meeting, so they will not have a representative. Finally, the Community Stakeholder Representative is a role that is designed to be an outside voice from the community that is not a part of county government or law enforcement. An application to serve in this role is open to any member of BHC that is interested. This application is via a [brief survey](#), which will be open through June 30th. Once all applications have been received, the existing Executive Committee members will vote virtually to select a representative. The first meeting of the new Executive Committee will be in August.

The DuPage County Sheriff's Office has two new representatives that will be working on BHC projects. Chief Mark Garcia and Commander John Putnam will be stepping into roles previously held by Anthony Romanelli and Mark Boggs, respectively. The Health Department and Sheriff's Office are currently working to set up a data sharing agreement for data from the mental health and substance use screening tools. Once approved, the agreement will allow for the rollout of the screening tools at intake for all individuals coming into the DuPage County Correctional Facility.

All EMS and Fire responders in DuPage are eligible to receive EMS Mental Health First Aid training, either through a training held at their department or an upcoming training held at the Health Department. Information about the DCHD EMS Mental Health First Aid training will be shared at a later date.

COVID-19 Update

As of Monday, June 7th, 51.24% of all DuPage residents (and 60.3% of residents eligible to receive a vaccine) have been fully vaccinated. This is the highest rate of vaccination of any county in Illinois. Case activity in DuPage is also trending in a positive direction, with the county having the lowest daily case counts in over a year. The hope is that these case counts will continue to reduce as more of the county receives vaccinations. Illinois is currently in a bridge phase between Phases 4 and 5. As long as current trends of ICU bed availability and COVID hospitalizations continue statewide, it is expected that Illinois will enter Phase 5 on Friday, June 11th.

As vaccine supply has grown, individuals still seeking to get vaccinated have a variety of options. The DuPage County Vaccination Clinic is now able to provide vaccines to those that come without an appointment, though appointments are still preferred to ease the process. Hours and additional information about the DuPage clinic can be found [here](#). Mobile vaccination clinics are available to local businesses and organizations at no cost. These clinics can accommodate 10-200 individuals for either two or four hours in order to vaccinate groups of employees that would normally be unable. Additional information about the mobile clinics can be found [here](#). The DuPage Health Coalition's [homepage](#) has a curated calendar of local vaccination clinics that can be shared to anybody looking for a local option on short notice.

Questions & Other Community Efforts

Mike Murray shared that a Milton Township 708 mental health board was approved via the election this past April. Once the Milton board is operational, it will become the second mental health board in DuPage after Bloomingdale Township established theirs in 2017. These mental health boards provide funds to programs that fill in service gaps in that township. There are over 80 such boards throughout Illinois. Board funds can be used to support programs involved with developmental disabilities, mental health, and/or substance use disorder. The remaining seven townships in DuPage are seeking to have referenda on the ballot in the November 2022 elections, meaning that there may be more township mental health boards if any of those referenda are passed. Mike shared that this is one of the best ways for residents to have their voices heard to support mental health in their communities. Anybody interested in learning more about mental health boards are encouraged to email Mike at mikem.united@yahoo.com or through the 'MH Boards for DuPage' Facebook page.

Eva Zeidner shared that Thresholds is looking for two licensed therapists to assist with their MindStrong program. Those interested in learning more or applying can email Eva (eva.zeidner@thresholds.org) or review job listings on the [Thresholds website](#).

Eirene Boulougouris and Ali Smith from the Naperville Police Department shared that Naperville PD will be piloting a co-responder model mobile CIT program during the summer. School resource officers will pair with police social workers to respond together. BHC will check in after the summer to find how the program worked.

The next BHC meeting will be on Tuesday, September 14th at 8:30am. Those that are interested in attending should [register here](#).