



Behavioral Health Collaborative Meeting Minutes

September 14, 2021

8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Welcome & Opening Remarks

Scott Kaufmann began the meeting at 8:30am. Commander John Putnam from the DuPage County Correctional Facility provided opening remarks. He introduced himself to the BHC and shared perspective on how crucial assistance is for people with mental health needs in DCCF. Next, Lori Carnahan shared a message from Karen Ayala of the DuPage County Health Department. Karen was unable to attend the meeting, but wanted to express her appreciation for all BHC members' efforts and stressed the importance of learning ways to address the different negative mental health impacts that the pandemic has caused.

COVID-19: Local Effects on Mental Health

Lori Carnahan provided information from the Kaiser Family Foundation regarding initial data on the mental health impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, including large increases in anxiety disorders among surveyed adults and even worse rates of substance use and anxiety disorders among essential workers. The full KFF study can be found [here](#). Attendees were then split up into small groups to discuss impacts that they have themselves seen as a result of the pandemic. After 15 minutes, the group was reconvened and representatives reported out their group's main takeaways, shared below:

- More and more people are seeking and receiving mental health and substance use treatment. There has been a clear increase in people receiving these services for the first time in their lives.
 - As the need for mental health and substance use treatment grows, it is important that these models grow to still provide timely and effective care.
- COVID has increased the complexity of providing treatment, housing, food, employment and other vital services. This is more difficult for both the providers and the people seeking these services.
- School-age children are facing rapid adjustments in their lives (in-person vs virtual, with mask vs no mask, seeing friends outside of school, etc) which can take a toll.
 - For teachers, having kids back in person is much preferred to remote due to the ease of providing lessons and keeping students engaged. However, in-person learning also brings with it complications such as keeping everybody safe during the day.
- Hiring for several sectors has become extremely difficult and strained what was already a small pool of qualified applicants to crucial positions.
- The pandemic has forced some police departments to become creative in the way they respond to calls, including having clinicians respond to mental health crises alongside officers.
- Plenty of workplaces have seen uncertainty fatigue as we move to and from different stages of pandemic response.
- Vaccination efforts have been politicized and some mandates have been met with backlash, leading to frustration at some workplaces.
- How can we improve the awareness of available behavioral health services?
- How can we make the temporary improvements to accessing behavioral health treatment more sustainable in the long term?

BHC Project Updates

Scott Kaufmann began the project updates by sharing the BHC Executive Committee that will serve from July 2021 through June 2023:

- Health Department Co-Chair: Lori Carnahan, DuPage County Health Department
- Sheriff's Office Co-Chair: Mike Drugan, DuPage County Sheriff's Office
- Community Stakeholder Representative: Scott Austgen, DuPagePads
- Central Receiving Subcommittee Representative: Eirene Boulougouris, Naperville Police Department
- Zero Suicide Subcommittee Representative: Kathy Carey, DuPage County Health Department

Kathy Carey then shared an update on the work that the Zero Suicide Subcommittee has been doing. The group recently set up a [page with clear 24/7 crisis resources](#) for use by anyone in urgent need. Later this month, the group will discuss additional ways to feature and share the page. Eirene Boulougouris from the Central Receiving Subcommittee then spoke about how the group met with the DuPage State's Attorney's Office in July. During the meeting, the SAO helped explain certain challenges and offered opportunities to move forward. The group has now decided to shift towards focusing on ways to encourage clients to visit a potential CRC voluntarily. Scott also spoke with a representative from a relatively new CRC in Deschutes Co, OR. Besides being another helpful reference point, this CRC is instructive because their client base is 100% voluntary.

Scott shared that the mental health and substance use screening tools officially began at the DuPage County Correctional Facility on Tuesday, September 7th. The tools being used are the Brief Jail Mental Health Screen (BJMHS) and TCU Drug Screen V (TCUDS V), and both are being provided at intake to all individuals entering the DCCF. Staff from across all different departments at DCCF are working together to smoothly deliver the screens and provide follow-up when necessary, as well as track metrics for informational purposes. The screens will be provided for two months to gather baseline data, after which representatives from the DCCF and Health Dept will meet to discuss initial data and ways to improve the process. Commander John Putnam shared that they are excited to get the screens running and, while the rollout has been bumpy at times, they're interested to learn more about way to help individuals coming into DCCF.

Due to some scheduling conflicts with other groups, the BHC Executive Committee agreed to shift the day of the week that the BHC quarterly meetings are held. Beginning in December, meetings will be on the second **Thursday** of the month each quarter (March, June, September, and December). This means that the next BHC meeting will be [Thursday, December 9th](#). Our hope is to get attendees from other groups that previously have not been available on Tuesday mornings.

The State of Illinois' plan for 988 rollout will be submitted to the National Suicide Prevention Line administrator at the end of this month, and we expect to have more information available to share regarding the details of this plan in December. The referrals for the Post-Crisis Response Team have been trending up compared to last year, with 100 referrals so far through the end of August. Finally, an EMS Mental Health First Aid training was provided to 21 responders from the Villa Park Fire Department between August 17th through 19th.

Questions & Other Community Efforts

Since September is National Suicide Prevention Month, Scott asked the group if anyone had any events or news to share along these lines:

- NAMI DuPage is holding its 5th Annual Remembrance Ceremony on Tuesday, September 28th at 7:00pm. The ceremony will remember friends and family that have been lost to suicide. More information about the ceremony is available [here](#).
- Glenbard Parent Series is featuring several speakers this month to mark Suicide Prevention Month. Sessions are open to parents from anywhere in DuPage County. Details about the speakers can be found on the GPS website [here](#).

- The DuPage Veteran Suicide Prevention Coalition is holding a suicide prevention seminar on Wednesday 9/15 from 9:00am until noon. Since this was just one day after the BHC meeting, details about this event were shared separately from the minutes.
- The Prevention Leadership Team has shared '[A Lethal Combination: Substance Use & Suicide Risk for Youth](#)' as part of Suicide Prevention Month.

Scott shared that there will be a special meeting for BHC members to participate in a Forces of Change assessment on Thursday, October 7th from 10:00-11am. Forces of Change is part of DuPage's Community Health Assessment and is an opportunity to share your thoughts on trends, events, and factors impacting the health of DuPage residents now and in the future. The BHC Forces of Change meeting is open to any BHC member and registration is available [here](#). More information about Forces of Change can be found from the [2018 Impact DuPage Community Assessment page](#).

The group was then allowed time to share any updates or events from their organization that they wanted to share with the rest of the BHC:

- The Interfaith Mental Health Coalition will be holding a special meeting on Tuesday, September 21st from 1-3pm about the Bridges to Care model and BHC members are invited to attend. More information about Bridges to Care is available [here](#) and information to join the meeting on 9/21 at 1pm is below.
 - Login link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83426570693?pwd=Qno0L2RWK2JhQVoxSFBLWmhmMWFNz09>
 - Passcode: 093807
- DuPagePads is in the process of trying to acquire a hotel to aid its clients. The process will be long but Scott Austgen shared that they are excited for the opportunities that the hotel would present. More information will be available as Pads progresses.
- DuPage Federation has announced a series of public benefits training and technical assistance events running from late September through early December. Information about the events can be found on [this page](#).
- Metropolitan Family Services will be holding a free vaccination clinic on Thursday, September 23rd from 4:00 to 6:00pm. A flyer for the event will be included in the follow-up materials from this meeting.
- Lisle Township is hosting 'Four Weeks of Calm,' free virtual weekly group mindfulness sessions with upcoming sessions on September 20th and 27th. Select recordings of the previous sessions are available on [this page](#).

The next BHC meeting will be on Thursday, December 9th at 8:30am. Those that are interested in attending should [register here](#).