



BHC December Meeting

We will have a virtual meeting via Zoom on Thursday, December 9th at 8:30am. Of special note, this is our first time meeting on Thursdays, and we will continue doing so into next year. 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. At this meeting we will share updates about behavioral health projects and upcoming events. We want everyone to share anything they have coming up and if you have flyers or event links, you can send them to Scott Kaufmann before the meeting. We really appreciated all of the updates in September and want to continue to showcase and share anything that would be helpful for the rest of the BHC to be aware of. We look forward to seeing you next month!



JMHCP Grant Wrapping Up

Since the beginning of 2019, DuPage has been fortunate to have received funding through the Bureau of Justice Assistance's (BJA) Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Project (JMHCP). This funding has helped strengthen the BHC organizationally and initiate several projects that will continue to improve the state of justice and mental health in DuPage County. While the funding may be coming to an end, the BHC has worked to ensure that our collaborative and projects will continue without any need for dedicated funding. A brief list of what we have accomplished with the funds is below!

- Created bylaws for the BHC to codify its organizational structure and form the BHC Executive Committee
- Convened a group of community representatives in 2019 to critically look at the current processes

for assisting and tracking individuals with mental illness that are brought to the DuPage County Correctional Facility (DCCF)

- Established mental health and substance use screening tools administered to individuals entering the DCCF to best serve them during their time there and planning for after release
- Developed a Mobile Crisis Response pilot for four police departments to either request a clinician to provide an onsite mental health evaluation or to directly drop off individuals in need of evaluation at the Crisis Center
- Supported DuPage clinicians to learn how to provide Mental Health First Aid trainings to local EMS first responders
- Connected DuPage with other innovative communities across the country and learn about ways to further improve our justice and mental health responses



DRIVING DUPAGE FORWARD

Impact DuPage Assessments Update

As mentioned at the September BHC meeting, [Impact DuPage](#) is currently conducting assessments to learn more about what aspects of health residents want to prioritize over the next three years. One of these



assessments is the [Community Health Survey](#), which is open to anyone that lives or works in DuPage County. This survey offers an opportunity to share thoughts on the strengths and needs of our county and only takes an estimated 5 minutes to complete. The survey is open through December 1, 2021 and we want to continue receiving the community's feedback. We would love to share the survey widely, so please contact Scott Kaufmann (scott.kaufmann@dupagehealth.org) if you wish to receive a template and sample post for sharing with your clients and partners.

"We have found that our community and department members alike are seeing the benefits of a clinician



riding with an officer and responding to calls for service in real time. The linkage to supportive services when you meet with someone in person during their crisis has been so much more effective in the short and long term, and we look forward to continuing this additional method of serving our community's needs," said Naperville Police Chief Jason Arras.

Department staff look forward to highlighting the innovative ways social services are being utilized in other towns within DuPage County communities.



Another of the Impact DuPage assessments is the Forces of Change assessment. BHC hosted its own Forces of Change meeting on October 7th and had a great discussion about the forces we see impacting DuPage's health into the future. Results from our assessment will be combined with over a dozen other organizations and the common themes will be used to guide the final Impact DuPage priority areas. For more information about Impact DuPage and the previous round of assessments, visit [this page](#).

Naperville Co-Responder Pilot

Naperville Police Department continues its pilot program of a co-responder model for officers and social services to respond as a mobile crisis intervention team.

Although not the only police department or city in DuPage to employ social workers, the Naperville Police Department has had a social services unit working alongside law enforcement officers for over 30 years. This pilot extension of the PD's social services program pairs a clinician with an officer in a patrol car during peak times of call volume for calls including but not limited to mental health concerns, domestic violence issues, elderly concerns, substance use, and other citizen assists.

Do you have an event, program, or achievement that you'd like to share with the BHC? Send an email to scott.kaufmann@dupagehealth.org and we can include it in our next newsletter or feature it at our next meeting!