



Behavioral Health Collaborative Meeting Minutes

December 9, 2021

8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Welcome

Scott Kaufmann began the meeting at 8:32am.

Suicide Death Trends in DuPage County

Dr. Richard Jorgensen provided a presentation for the Collaborative centered around trends observed recently about individuals that have died by suicide in DuPage. Over the previous four years, suicide deaths per year in DuPage have been between 80 and 107. Dr. Jorgensen mentioned that, while the Coroner's Office still has roughly two months of death data to compile for 2021, he anticipates that we will see roughly a 10% increase from the 105 suicide deaths in 2020. Those that are interested to see up-to-date breakdowns of 2021 deaths by suicide can do so at [this page](#) on the Coroner's website. Coroner Jorgensen did see increases in deaths by suicide since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in mid-March 2020. He has not seen specific trends of deaths by age, noting that there is a large spread of deaths across all age ranges. Dr. Jorgensen explained that they try their best to make determinations regarding whether something was accidental or intentional (e.g. an opioid overdose), but that it is often hard to get evidence to support that determination. Behavioral health records that could aid in that work are nearly always protected information that cannot be accessed. Dr. Jorgensen ended by urging everybody to proactively work with individuals we know at risk of suicide to seek help whenever possible.

BHC Project Updates

Kathy Carey kicked off the BHC project and subcommittee updates with a look into the work that is being done by the Zero Suicide Subcommittee, which has updated its [Mental Health Resources page](#). The page is designed to be a fast reference for anyone in crisis to quickly see available resources to help them in the moment. A QR code has been created for easy inclusion on physical materials such as business cards or flyers. A web button will be available soon to be hosted on partner websites to link back to the MHR page for individuals in crisis. If your organization is interested in hosting a link to the resource page or would like to use the QR code or web button in your materials or website, please reach out to scott.kaufmann@dupagehealth.org. The Zero Suicide subcommittee is currently seeking representatives from a hospital system and a local municipality. Finally, in 2022 we will look to grow the Zero Suicide efforts by building out specific subgroups, beginning with an adolescent suicide prevention group.

Scott Kaufmann shared an update from the Central Receiving Subcommittee, which has worked since the Fall of 2017 to identify best practices from across the nation regarding what makes a successful receiving center. The subcommittee is now at a point that that goal has been achieved and the group will wrap up its work as currently constructed. It is important to note that work on a CRC in DuPage has not ended and it will continue to be a priority of the BHC to support a CRC in our community. The information gathered by the subcommittee over the past four years is invaluable and will guide the next steps in the process for the development of the facility. The research compiled from the past four years will be shared in depth with those that will be working on implementation once funding has been fully secured. Funding is still being sought through a variety of different sources in order to sustainably support the development and operation of a CRC. A brief summary of the many great accomplishments made by this subcommittee is listed below!

- Interviewed nine CRCs across the U.S.
- Visited two sites – Orange Co (FL) and Fairfax Co (VA)
- Piloted EMS Transport program
- Mobile Crisis Response pilot program with Downers Grove, Lombard, Westmont, and Wheaton
- Mapped out potential CRC processes
- Identified benefits and drawbacks of providing sobering, voluntary admissions, transportation during and post-crisis, and other considerations

Lori Carnahan shared a status update on the ongoing push to implement the 988 mental health crisis number before the official implementation date of July 16, 2022. Lori shared that the State of Illinois has submitted a statewide planning grant and has also released a notice of funding opportunity for a single, statewide 988 center to handle all incoming calls for all of Illinois. Local centers (including DuPage) are waiting to hear about what this will mean for their own rollout of 988. It is anticipated that this will be more clear by our next meeting in March and updates will be shared at that meeting.

BHC participated in a Forces of Change Assessment on October 7th, which generated a great variety of insights about the different factors impacting the county's health over the next five to ten years. The most talked-about items from the meeting were the rises in need for mental health and substance use disorder treatment as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic (especially among adolescents and children), the workforce shortage of treatment providers in order to meet that increased demand, and uncertainty over how mental health calls will be handled in the future. BHC's Forces of Change results will be added to the thirteen other Forces of Change Assessments held this year, all part of Impact DuPage's work towards creating its 2022-2024 Action Plan. Results from all assessments and priorities for the next three years will be shared with the BHC early next year. Information on past assessments and priorities can be found on the [Impact DuPage website](#).

Scott Kaufmann shared that the mental health and substance use disorder screening tools began in September at the DuPage County Correctional Facility and, since we now have 60 days of data collected, DCCF leadership will review the findings and how the process has worked so far and discuss how to move forward with the tools. The Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program grant will end on December 31, 2021, and a list of accomplishments made possible from the funding can be found in the November BHC newsletter. Finally, the Crisis Intervention Team program has trained 840 DuPage officers to date, and will look to continue trainings in 2022 with three trainings (exact dates TBD) in the first half of the year. Additionally, the program is looking to add two new classes for Advanced CIT and Dispatcher CIT Awareness to expand the reach of CIT in DuPage even further.

Questions & Other Community Efforts

Nobody in attendance had an event or project to share. Anyone that is interested in sharing an event or project can do so by emailing Scott Kaufmann (scott.kaufmann@dupagehealth.org) in order to feature it in the next BHC Newsletter or as an email to all BHC members.

The next BHC meeting will be on Thursday, March 10th at 8:30am. Those that are interested in attending should [register here](#). The meeting concluded at 9:59am.