

Nebraska Division of Behavioral Health – Joint Meeting
State Advisory Committee on Mental Health Services - (§ 71-814)
State Advisory Committee on Substance Abuse Services (§ 71-815)
August 12, 2021 – WebEx Virtual Meeting
Country Inn and Suites, 5353 North 27th Street, Lincoln, NE
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Meeting Minutes

I. Open Meeting:

Call to Order/Welcome – Victor Gehrig, Chair of the State Advisory Committee on Substance Abuse Services called the meeting to order. Chair Gehrig welcomed virtual attendees to the meeting and introduced Chair of the State Advisory Committee on Mental Health Services, Danielle Smith. Gehrig informed attendees that the joint meeting follows the **Open Meeting Act** which can be found on the DBH website identified on the agenda. Smith welcomed virtual attendees.

Quorum for Committees

Roll call was conducted and a quorum was determined to exist for the State Advisory Committee on Substance Abuse Services (Substance Abuse Committee). Roll call was conducted and a quorum was determined to exist for the State Advisory Committee on Mental Health Services (Mental Health Committee).

State Advisory Committee on Mental Health Services

Members in Attendance: Mary Ann Borgeson, Margaret Damme, Lindy Foley, CJ Johnson, Kristen Larsen, Angie Ludemann, Ashley Pankonin, Jennifer Reyna, Carisa Schweitzer Masek, Danielle Smith, Mary Thunker, Tamara Gavin.

State Advisory Committee on Substance Abuse Services

Members in Attendance: Ashley Berg, Heather Bird, Kenneth Boryca, Victor Gehrig, Jill Gregg, Diana Meadors, Daniel Rutt, Randy See.

DHHS Staff

In Attendance: Sheri Dawson, Tamara Gavin, Linda Wittmuss, Betty Jean Usher-Tate, Karen Harker, Lisa Neeman, Brenda Moes, Jennifer Ihle, John Trouba, Jeri Keller-Heuke.

II. Membership Business:

Election of Officers—Chair Gehrig asked for nominations of officers for the Substance Abuse Committee. Victor Gehrig was nominated for Chairperson, Heather Bird was nominated for Vice Chairperson, and Kenneth Boryca was nominated for Second Vice Chairperson. Motion was made to close nominations. The motion to elect new officers as nominated passed with unanimous voice votes. These officers will serve in their respective capacity through the end of this calendar year. Regular elections for CY 2022 will be held at the November meeting. Chair Smith asked for nominations of officers for the Mental Health Committee. Currently, officers are Danielle Smith as Chairperson, Jacob Hausman as Vice Chairperson, and Wendy Kaiser as Secretary. Motion was made and seconded to vote the slate of officers. The motion to elect new officers as nominated passed with unanimous voice votes. These officers will serve in their respective capacity through the end of this calendar year. Regular elections for CY 2022 will be held at the November meeting.

Current Roster of Members—

SA: Vacancies by membership type—Consumer/Substance Abuse Services; this is the only opening. Two people not seeking reappointment because of term limits per the Governor’s decision: Jay Jackson and Randy See. A reappointment by member type for Ashley Berg (application confirmed from Governor’s office), Kenneth Boryca

(application confirmed from Governor's office), Jill Gregg, Kelli Means and Daniel Rutt. The last three have not been confirmed. Jill Gregg has submitted her application. Daniel Rutt has not submitted yet, but plans to. MH: Vacancies by membership type—Consumer/Mental Health Services, Family Member of Adult with SPMI, Family Member of Child with SED, and Provider of Mental Health Services. Applications have been received for all positions except Provider of Mental Health Services. Reappointment by membership type: Jennifer Reyna (application confirmed from Governor's office), Meg Damme, Susan Jensen, Ashley Pankonin, and Mary Thunker. Ashley Pankonin and Mary Thunker are reaching term limits in November and will not be eligible for reappointment. Not seeking reappointment is Jacob Hausman, Angela Sattler, and Tamara Gavin. People who may be interested in serving can submit an application to the Governor's office. Suggestion was made to consider using a recruitment email blast to solicit applications.

Meeting Minutes—

Substance Abuse Committee Chair Gehrig presented the April 18, 2021 meeting minutes for review. Mental Health Committee Secretary Wendy Kaiser confirmed her review of the minutes and had no corrections. Chair Gehrig asked if there were any corrections or comments. Hearing none, Chair Gehrig asked for a motion to accept the April 8, 2021 meeting minutes as written. Motion was made and seconded to accept the April 8, 2021 minutes as written. Vote by acclamation to approve the minutes was carried.

Mental Health Community Chair Smith asked for a motion to accept the April 8, 2021 meeting minutes. Motion was made and seconded to accept the April 8, 2021 meeting minutes as written. Vote by acclamation to approve the minutes was carried.

III. Public Comments:

There was no public comment received.

IV. Strategic Plan 2022-2024 Update:

Linda Wittmuss, Deputy Director, discussed the work behind the upcoming Strategic Plan for 2022-2024, which includes DHHS CEO Dannette Smith's five pillars of transformation. Suggested activities for each objective were solicited from committee members, with good feedback received. These objectives are posted on the DHHS website at <https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/behavioral-health-public-participation.aspx>. Suggestions for possible activities can be submitted to DHHS.BehavioralHealthDivision@nebraska.gov.

V. Break

VI. SAMHSA Block Grant Applications:

Karen Harker, Deputy Director, presented follow-up information on the Covid 19 and American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Block Grant Funding that was discussed at the previous JAC meeting. These two funding sources are separate grants that overlap. Covid Supplemental Funding for both Mental Health and Substance Abuse areas are awarded for the time period March 15, 2021 through March 14, 2023. ARPA Funding for both Mental Health and Substance Abuse areas will be for the period September 1, 2021 through September 29, 2025. While Mental Health will see an increase in funding, Substance Abuse will see a decrease in funding. Details on dollar amounts and covered activities are posted on the DHHS website at <https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/behavioral-health-public-participation.aspx>.

Betty Jean Usher-Tate, Administrator for Data Quality and Excellence, reviewed the eight priority need areas for the FY2022-FY2023 Block Grant Application, along with new data to support these priority areas. Use of Evidence-Based Programs are supported in the priority areas, as they have been in the past. Suggestions and questions were solicited from the committees. No additional ideas were received. Both Substance Abuse and

Mental Health committees commended DBH for their efforts on the Block Grant application. Details on priority needs areas and supporting data are posted on the DHHS website at <https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/behavioral-health-public-participation.aspx>.

Karen Harker, Deputy Director, reviewed the FY2022 and FY2023 Block Grant Application financial information. This required information is more complicated this year due to the close timing of several grant award periods. In addition to traditional fund sources, this application also includes Covid 19 Relief Funds and ARPA Funds estimated funds, which are one-time funds. No additional suggestions or comments were offered. Both Substance Abuse and Mental Health committees commended DBH for their work on the Block Grant application. Details on funding breakdown, dollar amounts and covered activities are posted on the DHHS website at <https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/behavioral-health-public-participation.aspx>.

VII. Lunch

VIII. Public Comments:

There was no public comment received.

IX. Director's Update:

Sheri Dawson, Director of the Division of Behavioral Health (DBH), welcomed members of the committees.

The 988 Mental Health Hotline planning is underway. Per the 988 planning grant, the draft plan is due by the end of September. LB247 created the task force for this hotline, which will include Director Dawson and Boys Town, will outline how grant funds will be used. Recommendations will be forwarded to DHHS CEO Dannette Smith and Governor Pete Ricketts.

The DHHS Strategic Plan's goal is to move away from the department being in silos, and becoming more of an integrated, collaborative team. The five pillars will involve all five divisions working together towards common goals.

Nebraska could see upwards of \$110 million from various multi-state opioid settlements. These are one-time funding opportunities. Some of these funds may go directly to counties instead of the state. The Nebraska Attorney General has formed a workgroup to develop recommendations for fund utilization focused on prevention, treatment, and recovery purposes related to the opioid crisis, substance use and co-occurring needs across Nebraska. The use of these funds must be sustainable over time. Full details are yet to come.

Title 206 Behavioral Health Regulations were signed by the Governor in June. As a part of these regulations, some service definitions are being updated and processed.

Workforce initiative continues with a focus on the integration of mental health and medical care. DHHS is currently participating in a workgroup with the Nebraska Medical Association on building workforce.

The 2022-2024 Strategic Plan has been a major focus of DBH work efforts this summer.

Legislature resolutions were proposed during their break to move eight behavioral health-related bills through their next session.

Director Dawson has plans to tour the behavioral health regions of the state. She is working on potential dates and schedules.

X. 988 Grant Update:

Denise Bulling, PhD, Senior Research Director at the University of Nebraska Public Policy Center, reviewed the progress of Nebraska's 988 Hotline planning. In response to Federal legislation mandating the creation of the 988 mental health hotline, LB247 put this planning into action. Eight core areas of this plan have been identified. This hotline is mandated to be operational by July 2022. Boys Town will be operating this hotline. Details on this plan, core areas and progress are posted on the DHHS website at <https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/behavioral-health-public-participation.aspx>.

Questions or comments regarding the 988 hotline can be directed to Dr. Denise Bulling at dbulling2@nebraska.edu or to Director Sheri Dawson at sheri.dawson@nebraska.gov.

XII. Meeting Wrap Up

Committee Announcements—There were no additional announcements from the committees.

Next meeting date is November 4, 2021. Meeting place and time to be determined. No additional business was identified by members. Suggestions for agenda items can be emailed to dhhs-behavioralhealthdivision@nebraska.gov.

XIII. Adjourn – 1:15 p.m.

The meeting agenda having been completed, Chairs Gehrig and Smith declared the meeting adjourned.