

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 22, 2024
Nebraska State Office Building, 301 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln, NE
9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Meeting Minutes **DRAFT**

I. Open Meeting

Call to Order/Welcome – Mike Tefft, Chair of the State Advisory Committee on Substance Abuse Services, called the virtual meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. Chair Tefft welcomed attendees to the meeting and introduced the Chair of the State Advisory Committee on Mental Health Services, Timothy Heller. Chair Heller welcomed all attendees as well. Chair Tefft informed attendees that the joint meeting follows the **Open Meeting Act**, which was posted near the meeting room entrance, and can be found on the Division of Behavioral Health (DBH) website identified on the agenda. Chair Heller informed attendees there would be an opportunity for Public Comment later in the meeting as identified on the agenda.

Quorum for Committees

Roll call was conducted, and quorum was met, for the State Advisory Committee on Mental Health Services (Mental Health Committee), with 7 members present. Roll call was conducted, and quorum was met, for the State Advisory Committee on Substance Abuse Services (Substance Abuse Committee), with 12 members present.

State Advisory Committee on Substance Abuse Services

Members in Attendance: Heather Bird, Heather Crawford, Jill Gregg, Kelli Means, Daniel Rutt, Gage Stermensky, Mike Tefft.

Members Absent: Ashley Berg, Leah Harms, Michael Sheridan.

State Advisory Committee on Mental Health Services

Members in Attendance: Verdell Bohling, Mary Ann Borgeson, Margaret Damme, Lindy Foley, Ingrid Gansebom, Timothy Heller, Susan Jensen, David Kass, Kristen Larsen, Kyle Long, Diana Meadors, Angela Miles.

Members Absent: Micki Charf, Victor Gehrig, Tracy Jordan, Jennifer Reyna, Melody Sandona, Carisa Schweitzer Masek, Danielle Smith, Paul Zeiger.

DHHS Staff

In Attendance: Weston Corum, Reecha Dixit, Thomas Janousek, Jeri Keller-Heuke, Erin Maier, Payton Shreves, Valerie Standeven, John Trouba, Betty Jean Usher-Tate, Linda Wittmuss, Erica Ziemann.

II. Membership Business

Meeting minutes from April 18, 2024—

Substance Abuse Committee Chair Tefft presented the April 14, 2024 meeting minutes for review. Chair Tefft asked if there were any corrections or comments. Hearing none, Chair Tefft asked for a motion to accept the April 14, 2024 meeting minutes as written. Motion was made by Diana Meadors, and seconded by Verdell Bohling, to accept the April minutes as written. Roll call vote was conducted, and minutes approved, with the following results:

Yea: Verdel Bohling, Mary Ann Borgeson, Margaret Damme, Lindy Foley, Ingrid Gansebom, Timothy Heller, David Kass, Diana Meadors, Heather Bird, Heather Crawford, Jill Gregg, Kelli Means, Mike Tefft.

Nay: None.

Abstain: Roger Donovick, Kristen Larsen, Kyle Long, Angela Miles, Daniel Rutt, Gage Stermensky.

III. SAMHSA Block Grant Application

- a. Assessment and Plan: Dr. Betty Jean Usher-Tate, DBH Data & QI Administrator, reviewed the purpose of the SAMHSA Block Grant, presented preliminary information for SFY24 community-based services, and reviewed block grant priority areas in the context of the FFY25 Block Grant Mini-Application, which is Year 2 of the two-year planning period. Block Grant Priority Areas were reviewed and preliminary data on achievement of First-year target/outcome measures and discussion of continuing goals and measures into Year 2. No changes were recommended; all eight Priority Areas will continue without change for Year 2.

Priority Areas are focused on critical areas for treatment and recovery success, including stable housing outcomes, employment, person-centered care, and access to treatment and support systems in one's community. The eight Block Grant Priority Areas are: #1-Prevention of binge drinking among youth and young adults; #2-Increase the use of Evidence-Based Strategies employed by prevention coalitions; #3-Consumers in Stable Living Arrangement at discharge from residential services; #4-Percentage of consumers in the labor market who are employed at discharge; #5-Access for Priority Populations to SUD services; #6-Increase utilization of treatment programs for first-episode psychosis; #7-Referral to services for persons with tuberculosis; and #8-988 Crisis Response Dashboard public access. Additional information was requested to be shared about the seasonal dips in Quarter 2 of the state fiscal year for Priority Area #3: Consumers in Stable Living Arrangement at discharge from residential services. The link to the 988 Dashboard is https://datanexus-dhhs.ne.gov/views/988ActivityDashboard_17132906644320/AbouttheData?%3Aembed=y&%3Aiid=1&%3AisGuestRedirectFromVizportal=y

- b. Budget for Year Two of Plan: Valerie Standeven, DBH Budget Officer, reviewed the financial projections for the SAMHSA Combined Mental Health Block Grant and Substance Use Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Services Block Grant 2025 Mini-Application. States are directed to use the FFY2024 final enacted allocation amounts for purposes of completing the FFY2025 Mini-Application until enactment of the federal FY2025 appropriations.

Mental Health Block Grant (MHBG) interim allocation for FFY25 is \$4,461,633. The MHBG includes set-asides for First Episode Psychosis - Evidence-Based Practices for Early Serious Mental Illness including First Episode Psychosis equal to 10 percent of total award MHBG (\$446,163.30) and Crisis Services equal to 5 percent of the total award MHBG (\$223,081.65). Substance Use Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Services Block Grant (SUPTRS BG) interim allocation for FFY25 is \$8,476,196. The SUPTRS BG includes Primary Prevention equal to a minimum of 20 percent of the total award SUPTRS BG (\$1,695,239.20).

- c. Discussion and Recommendations: Discussion regarding the block grant mini-application was held by the committee. It was clarified that the MHBG FFY25 planned expenditures for Crisis Services includes MHBG grant funds of \$223,081.65, state funds of \$15,624,765 and other federal funds of \$161,803 for the planning period. There were no recommendations regarding Block Grant Priority Areas targets for Year 2 of the planning period.

No recommendations were placed before the committee. Chairs Tefft and Heller thanked staff for their presentations on the SAMHSA Block Grant Mini-Application.

IV. Trends in Substance Use

Drs. Harley Peters and Thakur Bais, DBH Statistical Analysts, presented a detailed demographic breakdown of substance use trends for all individuals served by DBH from 2012-2023. It illustrates the substance usage rates in youth (aged <21) versus Adults (aged >=21) by primary substance and additional (secondary) substances reported at admission. This presentation includes top three primary substances (alcohol, marijuana and methamphetamine), percentage of individuals reporting secondary substance use, and secondary substance breakdown by primary substance. It covers trends in substance use by demographic variables such as age group, race, and trauma history, substance use in priority populations, and MH & SUD service utilization rates. Tobacco usage among adults with demographics variables, trauma history and types were reviewed as well.

V. Recovery Month

Payton Shreves, DBH Mental Health & Recovery Friendly Workplace Coordinator, and Erin Maier, DHHS Marketing & Communications Specialist, discussed the upcoming 2024 Recovery Month event that will be held on Sunday, September 29, 2024, at the State Capitol North Steps. There will be speakers, awards, and vendors sharing information on their programs. The featured speaker will be Tony Hoffman, former Olympian. A media toolkit will launch on the DHHS website on August 26, 2024. The number of vendors increased over last year, so available space for any other interested parties is now limited. Nominations for awards for community leaders, individuals and organizations dedicated to supporting hope and healing can be directed to Jennifer Ihle, Office of Consumer Affairs Program Coordinator, by September 13, 2024. Any further inquiries can be directed to Jennifer Ihle at Jennifer.ihle@nebraska.gov.

VII. Director's Update

Dr. Thomas Janousek, DBH Deputy Director of Clinical Excellence, thanked committee members for their attendance, and gave updates on several items occurring in the Division of Behavioral Health.

The Department of Justice (DOJ) released an overview of their findings regarding their investigation into Nebraska's assisted living providers. DHHS is currently in negotiations with the DOJ to determine what improvements will look like in terms of technical details to operationalize changes to support individuals to be as independent as possible based upon their choice and their needs. We are starting efforts to target individuals in Day Services and working on assisting with stable employment and stable housing situations in community settings. We are looking at opportunities for standing up additional services for supported employment, supported housing, and more transitional support services that are solely focused on bridging individuals from congregate settings and into community settings with more continuous community supports. We are also looking at bringing on more targeted case management for individuals in congregate settings which could then continue to follow and support them in community settings.

Work on Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHC) continues as decisions have been made regarding the framework of services and core metrics and standards. In May 2023, LB 276 the Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic Act, was enacted into law. Implementing CCBHCs throughout Nebraska will increase access to care, enable providers to incorporate evidence-based practices, and further establish care coordination. A timeline of Nebraska's CCBHC implementation can be found at <https://dhhs.ne.gov/Documents/NE%20CCBHC%20Implementation.pdf>. DHHS is interviewing nine finalists and will choose up to six to be certified in the initial phase. Three of the finalists are rurally located. The DHHS web site for more information is <https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/CCBHC.aspx>

September is Recovery Month. The 2024 Recovery Month event will be September 29, 2024 at the North steps of the State Capitol building.

VI. Public Comment

There were no public comments received during the Public Comment opportunity.

X. Meeting Wrap Up

The next Joint Advisory Committee meeting will be November 14, 2024, with location to be determined. Members suggested potential agenda items for the next meeting, including a review of membership bylaws and Regional Behavioral Health Authority opioid settlement summits.

XI. Adjournment

The meeting agenda having been completed, Chair Tefft asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion was made by Ingrid Gansebom and seconded by Kelli Means. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.