

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)
November 4, 2021
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 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 was posted at the meeting room entrance, and can be found on the DBH website identified on the agenda. Smith also welcomed all 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 but quorum was not met for the State Advisory Committee on Mental Health Services (Mental Health Committee). Due to no quorum for the Mental Health Committee, several items on the Membership Business agenda could not be addressed.

State Advisory Committee on Mental Health Services

Members in Attendance: C.J. Johnson, Danielle Smith.

State Advisory Committee on Substance Abuse Services

Members in Attendance: Ashley Berg, Heather Bird, Kenneth Boryca, Victor Gehrig, Diana Meadors, Kelli Means, Daniel Rutt.

DHHS Staff

In Attendance: Sheri Dawson, Linda Wittmuss, Karen Harker, Brenda Moes, Zack Hicks, Valerie Standeven, John Trouba, Jeri Keller-Heuke, Michelle Nunemaker.

II. Membership Business:

Meeting Minutes from August 12, 2021—

Substance Abuse Committee Chair Gehrig presented the August 12, 2021 meeting minutes for review. Mental Health Committee Chair Danielle Smith 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 the Substance Abuse Committee for a motion to accept the August 12, 2021 meeting minutes as written. Motion was made and seconded by Substance Abuse committee members to accept the August 12, 2021 minutes as written. Vote by acclamation to approve the minutes was carried.

Mental Health Chair Smith tabled the vote due to no quorum present for Mental Health.

2022 Meeting Schedule Dates—

Possible dates for 2022 JAC meetings (April, August and November) were distributed to all committee members in attendance. Due to no quorum present for the Mental Health Committee, final dates could not be voted on. DBH will email a poll to all committee members instead, with a closing date of November 11, 2021 to vote. Selected dates for Calendar Year 2022 identified by the preference of committee members are April 14th, August 18th and November 17, 2022. Meetings in 2022 will be held at the Lancaster County Extension Office at 444 Cherrycreek Road, Suite A, Lincoln, NE 68528.

Election of Officers for Calendar Year 2022—

Chair Gehrig asked for nominations of officers for the Substance Abuse Committee. Kenneth Boryca was nominated for Chairperson, Heather Bird was nominated for Vice Chairperson, and Diana Meadors 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 begin serving in their respective capacity on January 1, 2022.

Chair Smith tabled the nominations and election of officers for the Mental Health Committee due to no quorum being present.

Review of Committee By-Laws—

By-Laws for the State Advisory Committee on Substance Abuse Services and the State Advisory Committee on Mental Health Services were previously sent to all respective committee members for review and suggested changes. Members did not identify any changes to their respective By-laws to be considered, therefore it was declared that both sets of By-laws will continue to stand as-is. Chair Gehrig and Chair Smith will sign their respective By-laws.

III. Public Comments:

There was no public comment received at the morning Public Comment opportunity.

IV. Director's Update:

Sheri Dawson, Director of the Department of Health and Human Services Division of Behavioral Health (DBH), thanked members of the committees for attending today's meeting.

Director Dawson has been conducting listening tours and webinars to gather constituent input on the 2022-2024 Strategic Plan. Director Dawson will be in Scottsbluff on Friday, November 12, 2021 for input from Region 1. Each of the five pillars from the strategic plan were reviewed, along with the respective objectives and strategies for each pillar. Committee members made suggestions and offered help with several of the objectives.

V. Break

VI. 988 Update:

Sheri Dawson, DBH Director, reviewed the current status of the 988 Mental Health Hotline planning. This hotline will go into effect on July 1, 2022. Stakeholder webinars are held monthly to garner feedback on the implementation plan.

Director Dawson introduced Michelle Nunemaker, DBH's new System of Care (SOC) Administrator. Michelle is involved with work on the 988 hotline as well.

A key 988 advisory group needs to be in place by January. This group will initially meet monthly for six months, then move to quarterly meetings. Discussion was held to determine the types of stakeholders that would be beneficial to this group.

The 988 action plan outline can be viewed at:

<https://dhhs.ne.gov/Behavioral%20Health%20Documents/988%20Goals-Actions-Final.pdf>

VII. 2021 SAMHSA Block Grant Implementation Report:

Karen Harker, Deputy Director, reviewed the expenditure reports for the SAMHSA Block Grants. Each of the Mental Health Services Block Grant and Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant awards run on 24 month periods that overlap previous awards by 12 months. In turn, there is more than one block

grant award that can be spent in any 12 month period. Each block grant award includes the requirement of an annual report.

Reporting for the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2022 Block Grant reports, which includes reporting on expenditures of the FFY 2019 Block Grants period of October 1, 2019 to September 30, 2021, identifies expenditures for both block grants. Also, reporting tables include expenditures for the most recent completed State Fiscal Year 2021 and actual expenditures for both block grants do not meet the Maintenance of Efforts requirements for this period, though the amount Medicaid funding has not yet been identified which will add to total state expenditures.

At least twenty percent of the SA block grant award must be spent on primary prevention activities; these expenditures for prevention activities represented over 20% of the SA block grant award in the reporting period.

Committee members engaged in a discussion about the expenditures and Maintenance of Effort. No recommendations were made by committee members.

Linda Wittmuss, Deputy Director, reviewed the Annual Performance and Data Indicators Report for the 2021 SAMHSA Block Grant. The state is required to report whether or not the performance targets outlined in the FFY20-21 Application and Plan were achieved. The Block Grant Priority Areas and Annual Performance Indicators were reviewed.

- i. Reduce prevalence of binge drinking among youth and young adults;
- ii. Increase the use of evidence-based strategies employed by prevention coalitions to reduce alcohol and substance use;
- iii. Consumers to secure and maintain permanent housing in the community;
- iv. Consumers in the labor market have competitive employment;
- v. Priority populations are admitting to substance use disorder services in a timely manner;
- vi. Improve access to First Episode Psychosis Coordinated Specialty Care treatment for youth and young adults who have experienced a first episode of psychosis;
- vii. Regional Behavioral Health Authorities' compliance with contract requirements for Tuberculosis screening to be provided for all individuals entering a substance use disorder treatment service;

All priority area targets were met or exceeded. However, the prevalence of binge drinking among youth and young adults target measure was within the measurement confidence interval though its midpoint was below the target.. The suggestion was made that DBH work with outside housing providers to garner more data regarding Supported Housing efforts.

VIII. Lunch

IX. Public Comments:

At the afternoon Public Comment opportunity, Brad Muerrens, Public Policy Director with Disability Rights of Nebraska introduced himself, shared information about his organization, and offered feedback on the Strategic Plan.

X. Olmstead Update:

Linda Wittmuss, Deputy Director, reviewed the Nebraska Olmstead Plan history and the state's current status for implementing this. LB570 outlined the need for a Steering Committee, an Advisory Committee, and three Workgroups to be formed. DBH is looking for input on strategies, activities and progress measures.

XI. Nebraska Epidemiological Profile:

Zack Hicks, Behavioral Health Epidemiologist, reviewed highlights on the 2020 Nebraska State Epidemiological Profile. The presentation indicated that Nebraska middle and high school students have lower prevalence of

underage alcohol use, binge drinking, and marijuana use compared to peers in other states based on data from the Youth Risk Behavior Survey. Young adults in Nebraska, however, report higher prevalence on the same indicators relative to other states (National Survey on Drug Use and Health). Data were also presented on alcohol- and marijuana-impaired driving, alcohol-related deaths, overdose hospitalizations, overdose deaths, and suicides. Questions were asked about impaired driving and mapping overdose hospitalizations.

The Epidemiological Profile is an output of the Statewide Epidemiological Outcomes Workgroup (SEOW) – a requirement of the Partnership for Success (PFS) grant of 2018. The report compiles survey and administrative data related to substance use and mental health for years 2011 through 2020. The report can be found on the DBH website at <https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Statewide-Epidemiological-Outcomes-Work-Group.aspx>.

XII. Office of Consumer Affairs-Recovery Month:

Brenda Moes, Office of Consumer Affairs (OCA) Administrator, discussed National Recovery Month in September, and offered thanks to all who participated in various activities throughout the state. The question was raised as to whether there would be state funding available for providers to host Recovery Month activities. It was suggested that providers may try reaching out to their respective Regional office to inquire about any potential funding available for this purpose.

Global Peer Support Celebration Day was October 21st. DBH hosted a Face Book Live to highlight the importance of Peer Support workers and also hosted a virtual Facebook event to recognize the contributions made by our Peer Support workforce.

The Certified Peer Support Specialist (CPSS) certification process has been in place for 2 ½ years now, with 125 people being certified so far. OCA plans to sponsor two CPSS trainings by the end of FY22. Comment was received to commend the OCA on the quality of training that has been established for CPSSs.

OCA People's Council continues to meet quarterly to provide state and regional leadership feedback and suggestions from council members who utilize their lived experience to advocate for systems transformation, identify areas of need and advocate for a recovery-oriented system of care. There are currently two Transition-Age Youth positions and one At-Large position vacant. It is suggested that recruitment for these positions can occur by Regional Consumer Specialist outreach and postings on relevant websites.

The DBH policy statement on employment of individuals with serious mental illness (SMI) has been drafted with input from Regional Consumer Specialists (RCS) and People's Council.

“The state of Nebraska recognizes the potential for persons who are living with an SMI to be able to fully participate in the workforce. Persons who live with a SMI are recognized to have the capacity to engage and participate in the workforce and are able to make positive contributions to the business or organization for whom they are employed. Person's with an SMI are capable of learning new skills, having a strong work ethic, and can be strong leaders in whichever field they choose to be employed. By including persons with an SMI in all aspects of the workforce, they gain a sense of purpose and community which can aid in their overall wellbeing. The DBH calls upon employers to practice affirmative action in training and employing people in recovery in all professional career fields.”

This statement will tie in with the block grant goal of supported employment, and the Recovery Friendly Workplace Initiative. Discussion was held on the goal of this statement and how this will be beneficial to citizens of Nebraska. Some minor wording changes were suggested for consideration including the following: changing the first sentence to read ‘The state of Nebraska wishes to promote individuals who are living with an SMI...’, defining what an SMI is, and defining ‘recovery’ to include persons with mental health and/or substance use disorders. Committee members voiced support for this statement.

OCA is working with UNL's Public Policy Center (PPC) to provide various trainings which have included the following to date: Motivational Interviewing, Language Matters, Trauma Informed Care, and Ethics and Boundaries. Past trainings were recorded and are available through the UNL website. Suggestions for other topics and target audiences were made. The question was posed if continuing education units (CEUs) could be made available for watching the recorded trainings in the future. Brenda will follow up with UNL PPC to see if this is possible. All recorded and upcoming training information can be found at the following website: <https://dhhs-dbhtraining.unl.edu/>.

XIII. Meeting Wrap Up

Committee Announcements—There were no additional announcements from the committees. No additional business was identified by members.

Selected meeting dates for Calendar Year 2022 identified by the preference of committee members by Google Poll are April 14th, August 18th and November 17, 2022. Meetings in 2022 will be held at the Lancaster County Extension Office at 444 Cherrycreek Road, Suite A, Lincoln, NE 68528.

Suggestions for next meeting agenda items can be emailed to DHHS.BehavioralHealthDivision@nebraska.gov.

XIV. Adjourn-2:30 p.m.

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