



Behavioral Health Commission on Adult Mental Health

Meeting Name:	Behavioral Health Commission on Adult Mental Health Meeting w/ Dauphin County
Date:	September 1, 2022
Start Time:	3:30 PM
End Time:	6:30 PM
Venue:	Capital Associates Building, Forster Room / Microsoft Teams Meeting

Attendees
Kathy Quick, Lisa Kennedy, Jason Rilgio, The Reverend Michelle Anne Simmons, Tina Clymer, Dr. Matthew Hurford, Dr. Faith Dyson-Washington, Dr. Maria A. Oquendo, Chief Edward M. Cunningham, Dr. Jeanne M. Slattery, Dr. Stephanie Diez-Morel, Hasshan Batts, Dr. Kenneth Thompson, Dale Klatzker, Jillian London, Dr. Dale Adair, Mike Humphreys, Ellen DiDomenico, Muneeza Iqbal, William Ward, Dr. Noreen Fredrick, Rep. Michael Schlossberg, Rep. Wendi Thomas
Minutes
<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Meeting Objectives Meet with Dauphin County Officials to hear testimony on where funding could be helpful to urban/suburban counties■ Commissioner George Hartwick Base funds are needed to run an adequate behavioral health system in the county Workforce is key - payments could be used for increase pay, retention payments, etc.■ Andrea Kepler, LCSW, Mental Health Administrator Base funds are critical to county programs – additional base funds could be used to help stabilize the workforce Money could be used for residential services, crisis services, administrative case management Development of the workers already in place is also important to retention

■ **Scott Suhring, Capital Area Behavioral Health Collaborative**

Affordable housing is needed – Community Residential Rehabilitation can be expensive, supportive housing doesn't work if individuals cannot access affordable housing

Staffing shortages need to be addressed through recruitment and retention

Goal should be to lower the number of individuals boarding in Emergency Departments

Need to build systems' capacity to better support the elderly in nursing homes and community support services

■ **Kristin Varner, Drug and Alcohol Administrator**

Staffing shortages across the board – lack of medical based treatment providers, lack of employees working overnights, and lack of bilingual services

Transportation is also a barrier for individuals to getting care

Suggest that certified recovery specialists be embedded into hospitals

■ **Dr. Noreen Fredrick, UPMC**

Workforce development through scholarships, loan forgiveness, and fellowships

Recommends integration of mental health & substance use disorder services at all levels, providing start up payments for brick and mortars or in getting repurposed facilities up and running

Also mentioned the need for regulatory reform to lessen the administrative burden on employees

Investment into infrastructure for technology and community-based services

■ **Erika Saunders, Penn State Health**

Integrative care is key – TiPS program, ECHO program, PACMAT programs are all models

Funding should go to connectors, care coordinators, tele-education, peer support specialists

■ **Kim Feeman, Pennsylvania Psychiatric Institute**

Need to address workforce – stop turnover, provide tuition reimbursement and loan repayment, sign on bonuses and retention payments

Affordable housing is important especially for hard to place patients

Outpatient services should be expanded

■ **Chief Reider, Swatara Township Police Department/Fran Chardo, District Attorney**

Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) has been helpful

Want to get more funding for more co-responders

- \$70k per responder

- **Marissa McClellan, County Administrator Children and Youth**

There are huge behavioral and mental health needs for children in the system

There are a lack of in-home services and bed spaces available for children

- **Greg Briggs, Warden/Dr. Rollings-Mazza, PrimeCare Medical Psychiatrist**

The county jail is the largest behavioral health provider in the county

The amount of people with serious mental illnesses in correctional facilities has increased

Funding would be helpful in getting resources for Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT)

It would also be helpful to increase the number of forensic beds in state hospitals, inpatient beds, number of providers in jails

- **Ted Dallas, Merakey/Charles Hooker, Keystone Services**

Investments need to be long lasting to address the sustainability of the system

One time funding does not provide any stability – need recurring funding

A living wage is needed for all – \$32/hr is the estimated living wage in this area (as noted by MIT), Merakey itself is going to invest \$30 million in raising salaries

One-time funds could be used for sustainable housing and debt reduction

Invest in whole person care and expansion of telemedicine

Meeting Adjourned at 6:33

Next Steps

- Next meeting is on 9/8 @ 3:30 PM in Centre County