



Behavioral Health Commission on Adult Mental Health

Meeting Name:	Behavioral Health Commission on Adult Mental Health Meeting 4 w/ Centre County
Date:	September 8, 2022
Start Time:	3:30 PM
End Time:	7:40 PM
Venue:	Central PA Institute / Microsoft Teams Meeting

Attendees
Kathy Quick, Lisa Kennedy, Jason Rilogio, 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, Dr. Dale Klatzker, Jillian London, Dr. Dale Adair, Mike Humphreys, Ellen DiDomenico, Muneeza Iqbal, William Ward, Dr. Noreen Fredrick, Rep. Wendi Thomas, Rep. Michael Schlossberg, Senator Maria Collett
Minutes
<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Meeting Objectives Meet with Centre County Officials to hear testimony on where funding could be helpful to urban/suburban counties■ Meeting Minutes Approval Motion to approve Minutes<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Dr. Slattery made motion to approve previous meeting minutes■ Dr. Hurford seconded the motion■ Was approved unanimously by a voice vote■ PCCD Funding \$135 million was given to PCCD for grant funding

The applications are open to local law enforcement for multiple uses including IT infrastructure updates, body cams, training for officers, etc.

The application period is now open

■ **Michael Pipe, Mark Higgins, Steve Dersham, Centre County Commissioners**

Flexibility of use of funding to counties is vital, flexibility will allow counties to better react in emergency situations

Workforce is one of the key issues to the county commissioners along with recruitment and retention of employees

Counties have been level funded for 11 years now, a permanent funding increase would help counties

■ **Natalie Corman, Centre County Deputy Administrator**

Flexibility in funding uses is important – money given to the counties could be used to create walk in centers, crisis residential services

Money could be used for crisis services, telehealth, and services in the criminal justice system

Centre County could build a crisis residential program and have peers embedded within this with additional funding

■ **Felicia Stehley, Regional Director, Community Care Behavioral Health**

Workforce – must work towards preventing the erosion of workforce/stabilizing the current workforce, retention payments are important here, must address the salary disparity for rural workers

Need for crisis services – flexibility in funds to support continuum of crisis services

Investment in technology could help reach more people

Emphasized importance of regulatory flexibility

■ **Catherine Arbogast, Assistant Administrator for Drug and Alcohol**

Priorities are workforce resources, retaining staff, flexibility in meeting needs, creative ways to use dollars

Funding must be provided to counties at the local levels so they can make local decisions because they know the local communities and the local needs

Need to build career paths and grow salaries so that people see growth potential in their salaries

■ **Captain Kevin Creighton, Pennsylvania State Police**

PSP provides law enforcement services at the local level for a large percent of municipalities, these localities are reliant upon those county's services

Crisis residentials and walk-in centers would be helpful in Behavioral Health Crises

PSP is working to create CIT trainings that might be more county specific since needs and protocols vary county to county

■ **Julia Sprinkle, Director, Children and Youth**

Everything is shared within the county, if one agency receives money it will directly impact Children and Youth

Residential care would be helpful especially for those in the transitional 18-21 ages because this would allow them to come back to the county

Centre County Children and Youth is experiencing recruitment and retention issues like everyone else

■ **Christopher Schell, Warden, Centre County Jail**

Many people at correctional facilities have behavioral health needs

The jail is trying to get peer support workers integrated into the jail so that they can start providing support to inmates inside the jail and continue when they leave

They need more hours with psychiatrists and therapists, but this would be an increased cost

Flexibility for counties to use funding is of high importance

■ **Dr. Malishchak, Director of Psychology, Office Department of Corrections**

Workforce development and recruitment of clinical staff is a priority

Student loan reimbursement and competitive salaries are two areas that could be invested in

It would be helpful to create a certified peer specialists program for corrections

Funding could also help expand behavioral health therapies

■ **Val Barner, President/CEO, Skills Group**

Workforce assistance would be helpful – focus payments on retention bonuses, tuition reimbursements, scholarships, and increased salaries

Technology would also be a good investment because there is a need for more mobile staff

Interest in creating a career ladder for staff

■ **Beth Gillian, Executive Director, Center for Community Resources**

Recent increase in calls from individuals that are struggling with basic living needs such as housing, employment, food, utility/rental assistance

Need for flexibility to provide county level needs because counties are very different

Recommendations for funding are expanding the co-responder model, 24/7 walk-in centers, bonuses and loan forgiveness to support retention

■ **Erin Crown, Owner, Oasis LifeCare**

Oasis LifeCare brings medical care to psychiatry

Believes it would be helpful to fund long-acting injectable treatments in prisons because this would buy time for individuals to re-integrate when they are re-entering society

Funding should also go towards mental health professionals being incorporated into the police force

Recruitment and retention should also be funded through increased salaries, loan repayment, and creating a positive work environment

■ **Ellie Hogentogler and Jen Kraschnewski, Project ECHO**

Project ECHO is a tele-education program for physicians

ECHO provides continuing education credits and act as a peer learning network

Can help fill gaps of lack of behavioral health providers in rural areas by empowering primary care providers to help patients with behavioral health needs, importance of integrated care

■ **Next Steps**

Edit the allocation priority survey based on the comments provided

Commission members take survey by Wednesday, September 14

Next Steps

■ Next meeting is on 9/16 @ 9 am in Capital Associates Building