



# **DALLAS COUNTY, TEXAS**

## **Minutes of the Behavioral Health Steering Committee (BHSC) Meeting Thursday, January 21, 2021 Via Microsoft Teams**

### **Call to order and Introductions**

Judge Kristin Wade called the meeting to order at 8:31 am. 62 staff and agency representatives/providers attended with names recorded via Microsoft Teams and email. No introductions were given.

### **Minutes review and approval**

The minutes from the September 17, 2020 meeting (packet pgs.1-4), were reviewed with a motion and second by Lynn Richardson and Daniel Hatcher respectively for acceptance with no discussion or corrections. The motion was unanimously passed, accepting the minutes as read without objection.

**Change from bi-weekly to quarterly meetings/Permanently meet via Microsoft Teams:** Judge Kristin Wade asked the committee to provide feedback regarding changing the BHSC meetings from bi-weekly to quarterly and permanently meeting via Microsoft Teams. Daniel Hatcher stated that he was not sure when the OSAR (Outreach Screening Assessment and Referral) committee meets and would not want the two meetings to interfere with each other. The committee discussed the potential interference and determined that there would not be any conflicts.

***Judge Kristin Wade asked for a motion to change the BHSC meetings from bi-weekly to quarterly meetings. Daniel Hatcher accepted the motion and Lynn Richardson seconded, and the motion passed without any objections.***

Judge Kristin Wade asked the committee to provide feedback regarding changing the meeting to permanently meet via Microsoft Teams and conversation ensued among the committee.

***The committee decided to table permanently changing the meetings to only meet via Microsoft Teams until the April 15, 2021 meeting.***

**Presentation: "Phoenix House Texas"- Drew Dutton:**

**\*\*\*\*Drew Dutton presented from 8:45 am- 9:20 am with a Q&A session held after.\*\*\*\***

## **BHSC Data and Reports - Judge Kristin Wade**

**Program and Department Updates:** Program/outcome data, updates, and workload reports were provided and accepted via relevant dept./agency staff for the SAMHSA Grant, 530 Sub Committee, BHLT/CSP, Jail reports, Public Defenders, District Attorneys, Provider Reports, and Problem Solving and Specialty Courts (See packet pgs. 5-74 for details).

**SAMHSA Update (pg. 5):** Teresa Saulsberry reported that they had 14 admissions until December 2020 and 14 pending admissions. She also reported that admissions have decreased due to the COVID-19 pandemic and social distancing.

**530 Sub-Committee (pgs. 6-18):** Shenna Oriabure reported that the 530 Sub-Committee has no voting items and to refer to the minutes on pages 6-18. She also reported that the 530 Sub-Committee is currently supporting Specialty Courts during the COVID-19 pandemic. Last, she reported that the FY 2021 budget is included in the meeting materials. Judge Kristin Wade asked Julie Turnbull to provide an update regarding the Texas Association of Specialty Courts (TASC) Conference. Julie Turnbull answered stating that the conference will be in-person and is scheduled for April 20-22, 2021, which is a date change as well as the location changing to Galveston, TX at the Galveston Island Convention Center at the San Luis Resort (the hotel is one-two blocks from the convention center). She provided the committee with a brief overview of the conference workshops schedule and that the conference will be in-person for all attendees while some presenters may present via Zoom. She reported that government stipends were released to the Specialty Courts and that those courts should have received notice of their allotted stipends. She also reported that the 530 Sub-Committee is working to determine the stipends they will offer and are currently working on registration for the governor stipends, which will be available February 2021 for other courts. Last, she suggested reserving a hotel room at either the host hotel: The Hotel Hilton Galveston Island Resort or one of the overflow hotels: The San Luis Resort or Holiday Inn Resort Galveston-On the Beach. Conversation ensued among the committee regarding the TASC conference and possible COVID-19 restrictions and health checks.

***For the remaining committee and provider updates, Judge Kristin Wade stated to please refer to the data included in the meeting packet. Data reports include the following:***

### **BHLT & CSP Update (pgs.19-29)**

#### **Jail Reports**

**Hospital Movement (pgs. 30-31)**

**Homeless Report (pgs. 32-35)**

**Jail Based Competency Restoration (JBCR) (pgs. 36-37)**

**Public Defenders Report (pgs. 38-42)**

**District Attorney's Report (pgs. 43-60)**

#### **Provider Reports**

**The Bridge (pg. 61)**

**Metrocare (pgs. 62-64)**

**IPS Reports (pgs.65-68)**

## **Problem Solving Courts**

**Outpatient Competency (pg. 69)**  
**DIVERT (pg. 70)**  
**Specialty Courts CSCD (pgs. 71-74)**

### **Announcements:**

- Janie Metzinger reported that she has been watching daily to see what bills that have been filed. She reported that the senate committee members have been appointed, but the house committee members have not been appointed. Once they are appointed, hearings will begin. She stated that they will file through March 2021, and since the BHSC committee will now meet quarterly, she will pull any proposals that will amend the code of criminal procedure or the penal code relating to behavior health and send them to Kimberly Rawls to email to the committee. She also asked the committee to email her, Janie Metzinger at [jmetzinger@ntbha.org](mailto:jmetzinger@ntbha.org) with how that proposal would affect their agency. Last, she discussed various proposals relating to behavior health, substance abuse treatment and trauma training for attorneys involved with child custody cases.
- Judge Kristin Wade asked if there's a way to lobby for courthouse staff to receive the COVID-19 vaccination. Lynn Richardson answered stating that she had a conversation with Geoffrey Burkhart, Executive Director of the Texas Indigent Defense Commission. She stated that he reported that his staff have been in communication with the Governor's office who are working to try to make Criminal Justice staff priority to receive a vaccination. She reported that she meets regularly with Chief Public Defenders around the state and country, which are also trying to address this matter. She also reported that there has been little movement, but in some states, they have made Criminal Justice Staff vaccinations essential. Last, she suggested that all Criminal Justice entities such as the DAs office, Judges, etc. also should voice this concern because it could impact prioritization once the courthouse reopens and in-person trials resume. Judge Kristin Wade asked if Lynn Richardson could inform the committee of any future updates, so they can lobby to make this issue a priority.
- Judge Kristin Wade requested a status update from all the providers for the April 15, 2021, meeting regarding when and what services will resume in-person and those that will remain via videoconference with clients. Crystal Garland reiterated that Metrocare staff are assessing and making in-person visitation for all high-level acuity clients (i.e. ACT and OCR clients) according to the CDCs guidelines. She reported that staff continues to meet with the clients remotely and have been since March 13, 2020. Jessica Simons stated that IPS is also following the CDCs guidelines to ensure staff and client safety. She stated that any individuals that are psychiatric/high-level acuity clients that historically received in community services continue to get in-person therapy. She also reported that group services remain virtual and they are researching ways to provide that service safely in order to return to in-person therapy. Last, she reported that all their numbers have been consistent and for clients either without or limited internet access can come to their agency's lobby area and use the telehealth virtual stations they have created. Chad Anderson stated that NTBHA is also continuing to make in-person visits to all high-level acuity clients. Jessica Simons also thanked NTBHA for providing COVID-19 testing to all IPS staff. She also stated that the IPS can accept double the number of clients for MAT services.
- Judge Kristin Wade stated if anyone knows presenters that would like to present, to please email their contact information to [Kimberly.Rawls@dallascounty.org](mailto:Kimberly.Rawls@dallascounty.org).

### **Adjournment:**

Judge Kristin Wade adjourned the meeting at 9:17 am. The next meeting is set for Thursday, July 15, 2021, via either Microsoft Teams or in-person. A reminder will be provided to everyone to submit their monthly stats to Kimberly Rawls at [Kimberly.Rawls@dallascounty.org](mailto:Kimberly.Rawls@dallascounty.org) via email by the 2nd Friday of each month for tracking and distribution.