



DALLAS COUNTY, TEXAS

Minutes of the Behavioral Health Steering Committee (BHSC) Meeting Thursday, April 15, 2021 Via Microsoft Teams

Call to order and Introductions

Judge Kristin Wade called the meeting to order at 8:35 am. 35 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 January 21, 2021 meeting (packet pgs.1-3), were reviewed with a motion and second by Chief Lynn Richardson and Harry Ingram respectively for acceptance with no discussion or corrections. The motion was unanimously passed, accepting the minutes as read without objection.

Change meetings to permanently meet via Microsoft Teams: Judge Kristin Wade asked the committee to share any thoughts regarding meeting permanently via Teams. The committee discussed and decided that they would tentatively meet in-person for the July 15, 2021, meeting, but would wait to see the outcome of the COVID-19 situation, before committing.

Provider updates regarding in-person and videoconference services:

Judge Kristin Wade asked the community providers to provide status updates regarding their in-person and videoconference services.

Stacey Burns (Nexus Recovery), reported that they had two positive COVID-19 cases in their women and children's program as well as a positive child. She reported all positive COVID-19 cases are in isolation for 24 days. The entire dorm will be in quarantine until April 20, 2021, and they can begin admitting on April 21, 2021. The other programs are well, and they are currently admitting. Their adult programs are full, but they are working to get all pregnant women released from jail and moved into their adult program and then moved to their women and children's program once they reopen. She also reported that they tried to release two women but were only able to release one. The other client had a hold for Collin County and was not released. They anticipate receiving many pregnant women next week.

Judge Kristin Wade asked Stacey Burns if they provide both rapid COVID-19 testing and vaccinations at their facility. Stacey Burns answered stating that they have had two vaccine clinics, one was held at Nexus for their residential clients and the other was held at their Recovery Support Services office last week for their outpatient and alumni clients. She reported that they have another one scheduled for April 30, 2021, and plan

to offer clinics monthly or every five to six weeks. Since the clinics are offered through Parkland Hospital and they are using Johnson & Johnson vaccine, which has currently been recalled, the April 30, 2021, vaccine clinic has been canceled. She reported that there is a clinic near them that offers rapid COVID-19 testing, which they use. In this latest COVID-19 outbreak, she reported that the health department provided PCR tests to their facility, which they used and discovered their current positive cases. They plan to retest April 19, 2021, using those tests from the health department. She also reported that process is going well, and their nurse manager performs the test. If they are completed during the mornings, and dropped off at the health department, they receive results that afternoon. Last, she reported that they have not only used Parkland Hospital COVID-19 testing, but another mobile testing clinic as well and have offered testing/vaccination services about five times this year, thus far.

Judge Kristin Wade asked if there was a Homeward Bound representative present or if anyone from the Criminal Justice department has an update regarding Homeward Bound. Kimberly Rawls reported that she has not received any new update information. Laura Edmonds reported that she was informed that their services are remaining to move slowly as they try to upgrade up from closures from the pandemic as far as jail admissions are concerned.

Judge Kristin Wade asked Lee Pierson to share with the committee the DAs ability with getting clients admitted into Wilmer that are out on bond. Lee Pierson reported that he will response via email regarding this request but shared that it is being addressed. Judge Kristin Wade asked if clients can be admitted into Wilmer without going directly through the jail. Chief Lynn Richardson answered stating yes, they can.

BHSC Data and Reports - Judge Kristin Wade

Program and Department Updates: Program/outcome data, updates, and workload reports were presented 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. 4-54 for details).

****** Judge Kristin Wade rearranged the agenda, and the below BHSC Data and Reports reflect her request:******

District Attorney's Report (pgs. 33-40): Lee Pierson reported to please refer to the data is in the packet. He reported that Chris Hawkins, former felony prosecution attorney resigned to pursue another career opportunity. Jasmine Norman is her replacement. John took Chris's court responsibilities and Kyle Avery who is a part of competency court took John's court responsibilities. Jasmine will oversee STAC, Misdemeanor PTI docket, 291st, and CDC7 court responsibilities. He reported that he was nominated to be on the Judicial Commission for Mental Health and their first meeting was held at the end of March 2021. They are scheduled to meet again Friday, April 23, 2021, and will provide updates regarding the meeting during the July 15, 2021, BHSC meeting. He also reported that the progress with the Dallas Deflects Center is going well. Last, he reported that Kimberly Nesbitt met with Dallas Maverick Owner, Mark Cuban, and both Mark Cuban and the Mavericks have agreed to fund the first two years of security for the Dallas Deflection Center.

Public Defenders Report (pgs. 29-32): Judge Kristin Wade asked Chief Lynn Richardson to provide the Public Defenders (PDs) update. Chief Lynn Richardson answered stating that the data is in the pocket. She reported that they will have a webinar with Dr. Nancy Onisko, Assistant Professor at UT Southwestern Medical Center and Co-Director of the Perinatal Intervention Program at Parkland Hospital and Health System. She reported that Dr. Nancy Onisko contacted their office regarding concerns about women being transferred to Parkland who were eligible and should be evaluated for medication assisted treatment before being arraigned.

She stated that because of this issue, Dr. Onisko offered to conduct a presentation to the PDs office as part of their holistic client centered representation initiative. She reported that Dr. Onisko and her team will be presenting, including Dr. *Kurt C. Kleinschmidt*, Professor of Emergency Medicine at the University of South Texas. His specialties include substance abuse disorders and addiction medication. Last, she reported that their office is excited about the presentation to education attorneys regarding understanding MAT (Medication-Assisted *Treatment*) services and how to address clients with addictions.

Judge Kristin Wade asked Crystal Garland to share her new career endeavors and the Metrocare report. Crystal Garland announced that Jennifer Torres will provide the Metrocare and that she is no longer employed with Metrocare. She shared with the committee her tenure with Metrocare and her new career position as the new Program Manager for the newly funded Opioid Response grant with the Dallas County Criminal Justice Department.

Metrocare (pgs. 42-45): Judge Kristin Wade asked Jennifer Torres to provide the Metrocare report. Jennifer Torres report that each Court Case Manager need referrals. She reported that they have had some graduates, but their referral numbers are low due to the pandemic.

Judge Kristin Wade reported that client referrals are needed for the Misdemeanor Mental Health Jail Diversion program. She reported that for felonies, the SET (Stabilization, Engagement and Transition) program is going well. She encouraged everyone to continue to do their best to keep Specialty Courts full during the pandemic.

Outpatient Competency Janine Capetillo (pg. 48): Judge Kristin Wade asked Janine Capetillo to provide both the Hospital Movement and Outpatient Competency reports. Janine Capetillo reported to please refer to the packet for her data, but for the month of March 2021, there were 14 admissions to the maximal security facility, which is more than combined within the past four months. Because of this, the wait time has decreased for the maximal security male transports, by 80 days and are below the 600-day mark for the first time in over a year. She stated that everything else remains consistent and they have maintained their OCR averages. Judge Kristin Wade thanked her Competency Court Team for their hard work with the program.

BHLT & CSP Update Laura Edmonds given by Chief Lynn Richardson (pgs.14-19): Judge Kristin Wade asked Chief Lynn Richardson to provide the BHLT report. Chief Lynn Richardson report that the BHLT continues to meet and address issues that involve NTBHA (North Texas Behavioral Health Association) and provide services to mental ill offenders. Chief Lynn Richardson asked Vickie Rice to add any additional information. Vickie Rice reported that the office will miss former Dallas Behavioral Health employee, Terrance (T.J.) O'Reilly and his service to that agency and the community. She also reported that they have contacted DCDLA (Dallas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association), per the 530 Committee's previous meeting discussion to disseminate the information regarding the ability to bring clients from the community to Wilmer. She reported that the information will be sent this afternoon to the PDs. Laura Edmonds stated that she shared information in the Teams chat regarding the JTC Community Admission process as reference. She also reported if anyone has questions, to please contact her @ Laura.Edmonds@dallascounty.org.

SAMHSA Update Teresa Saulsberry (pg. 4): Judge Kristin Wade asked Kimberly Rawls if she provides the SAMHSA report. Kimberly Rawls stated that she reports on both the Homeless and FUSE reports and that Teresa Saulsberry is on the call to provide the SAMHSA report. Teresa Saulsberry reported to please refer to the data on page 4. She reported that they had two admissions and two clients pending for March 2021, for Nexus. She reported that they have not had any male referrals recently. She reported if anyone has referrals, to please send them to her at Teresa.Saulsberry@dallascounty.org.

Homeless & FUSE Reports Kimberly Rawls (pgs. 22-26): Judge Kristin Wade asked Kimberly Rawls to provide both the Homeless and FUSE reports. Kimberly Rawls reported that the homeless data is on pages 22-25. She reported that total jail bookings increased by 1,380 individuals. She reported that historically from February to March 2020 there was a decrease to the total jail population of 593 individuals. For March 2020, the total jail population was 4,201 individuals, which is an increase of 375 individuals for March 2021, setting a pre-pandemic high. She stated that she spoke with LaShonda Richardson, Dallas County Jail Population Coordinator, to see if she may have information relating to the increase. She stated that Lashonda Richardson shared that law enforcement agencies are arresting more individuals for aggravated assaults and aggravated family violence offenses. Kimberly Rawls stated she believes the increase is due to Governor Greg Abbott reopening of the State of Texas to 100% capacity on March 10, 2021. She reported that because of the overall total jail population increase, it caused increases to the other offense categories heavily amongst both the Criminal Trespass (CT) and Drug and Alcohol offense categories. She also reported for FUSE that the data is on page 26 and provided a brief overall of the program to the committee. She stated if anyone has any questions or qualifying clients to please send their client's information to Kimberly Rawls at Kimberly.Rawls@dallascounty.org and Maria Herrera at Maria.Herrera2@dallascounty.org. Judge Kristin Waded asked if it would be easier to connect clients to FUSE first or St. Jude. Kimberly Rawls replied stating, yes because if the client is working in FUSE the shelter navigators will help them obtain any needed documentation to be eligible for St. Jude.

530 Sub-Committee (pgs. 5-13): Judge Kristin Wade asked Vickie Rice to share any additional information regarding the 530 Committee. Vickie Rice stated that there will be various presenters coming from the Dallas County Judiciary, and both Judge Lela Mays and Judge Rocky Jones will present at the State conference as well as Chief Lynn Richardson presenting at the NADCP (National Association of Drug Court Professionals) conference. She thanked them for recognizing the talent amongst Specialty Courts and their peers.

Jail Based Competency Restoration (JBCR) Laura Edmonds (pgs. 27-28): Judge Kristin Wade asked for a representative to provide the JBCR report. Laura Edmonds stated that the data is on page 28-29 in the meeting packet. She reported that JCBR continues to do well and thanked NTBHA Staff for their facilitation for individuals who are in jail preventing them from going to the state hospital. They ended the month of March 2021 with 22 males in the male program and five (5) in the female program. They continue to experience client success with either being found competent or their case getting dismissed and successfully transiting into the community. Last, she reported at the bottom of each page shows the total days jail bed days saved as well as the total cost savings in jail bed days.

Judge Kristin Wade stated that if anyone has any female clients they would like to participate in JCBR to please refer them to Laura.Edmonds@dallascounty.org. Laura Edmonds stated that the female tank can hold up to eight (8) individuals.

Judge Kristin Wade asked if anyone else has anything they would like to report. Chief Lynn Richardson asked if Keta Dickinson could share any information from the Governor's Office if she was on the call and no response was given. Chief Lynn Richardson asked if the new CSCD Director, Arnold Patrick, could speak to the BHSC in the future regarding his vision for the program. Judge Kristin Wade also invited everyone to attend the 530 Committee meetings.

IPS Reports Enrique Morris/Jessica Simmons (pgs.46-47): Judge Kristin Wade asked Jessica Simmons from IPS to provide their agency's report. Jessica Simmons reported to please refer to their data on pages 46-

47. She reported that IPS is looking to expand their in-person services by June 14, 2021, depending upon the pandemic outcome.

Judge Kristin Wade asked Janie Metzinger to provide the legislative update. Janie Metzinger thanked both Julie Turnbull and Hank Judin for their representative of Dallas County and testifying for a permit funding stream for Specialty Courts during the Texas House of Representatives Appropriations Committee meeting (House Bill 1256). She reported the bills are now beginning to move. She reported that she will be updating both the bill list and tracking chart to share with the BHLT, which many of the BHSC committee members are on the BHLT email distribution list. The senate has passed their budget and the house appropriations committee will probably pass their budget today and then off the floor of the house next Thursday, April 22, 2021. After that occurs, the budgets will be sent to each house in the senate and they will not agree, therefore the budgets will be sent to the conference committee to resolve differences. The conference committee is comprised of chairs and vice-chairs of each committee and the chair of health and human services for each article. She reported that there is funding in the house budget for the construction of a new state psychiatric hospital in the Dallas County area and rebuilding Terrell Psychiatric hospital bed-for-bed in Terrell, TX. Chief Lynn Richardson asked Janie Metzinger if there is legislation that the committee would like to support, could she please send it to the committee, so they can notify their elected officials for support for any bills that maybe endangered of not being passed. Janie Metzinger stated that bills tend to be endanger of dying opposed to not being passed. She reported that if bills are not moved in a certain deadline they die in most occasions, but sometimes the bill's language can be appended to another active moving bill. She also shared examples with the committee as well as current moving bills.

Judge Kristin Wade reported that there is a National Survey for Specialty Court participants to evaluate how successful virtual courts have been since the pandemic. She reported that most of the Specialty Court Judges should have received and encouraged them to have their court participants complete the survey. Please contact Shenna Oriabure at Shenna.Oriabure@dallascounty.org.

Kimberly Rawls informed Judge Kristin Wade that committee reports are needed from The Bridge as well as Specialty Courts. Judge Lela Mays congratulated Crystal Garland on her new position with Dallas County. She also thanked the committee for all their work during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

The Bridge Kelly Kane (pg. 41): Kelly Kane reported that they The Bridge is requesting everyone to receive a COVID-19 test before residing in their shelter and it has been successful, thus far. She reported that they only had one incident in December 2020, with COVID cases and have been clear since. Their day and night shelters are continuing to operate at limited capacity. She reported if anyone has a current negative COVID test result they are not turning them away from lodging particularly for day sheltering since night sheltering is limited. They were able to hold some vaccination clinics, but they were also using the Johnson & Johnson vaccine through Parkland Hospital, which has now been suspended due to the recall. She believes they vaccinated 175 individuals for COVID. They currently have some Hepatis A vaccinations occurring through Dallas County due to the recent outbreak.

Judge Kristin Wade asked Kimberly Rawls if there are any other committee reports. Kimberly Rawls reported that Outpatient Competency, DIVERT, and Specialty Courts have not reported.

Specialty Courts CSCD Christopher Alonzo (pgs. 50-53): Christopher Alonzo reported that their numbers have slowly increased. He reported that there have not been a lot of changes regarding virtual court staffing. Some of the smaller courts are beginning to bring participants back on a needed basis, but the majority are being held via Zoom. He reported their numbers are steady and are beginning to increase.

Outpatient Competency Janine Capetillo (pg. 48): Judge Kristin Wade asked Janine Capetillo to provide the OCR report. She reported that their numbers remain the same. The program's admission is well with the use of virtual check-in's and limited community services. She believes some in-person groups have resumed. Judge Kristin Wade thanked the OCR case managers for their hard work during the pandemic.

Judge Kristin Wade asked Kimberly Rawls if there are any additional reports.

DIVERT Trina Crosby (pg. 49): Kimberly Rawls asked Trina Crosby if she has a report to share with the committee, if on the call, with no response.

Chief Lynn Richardson thanked the committee for their hard work during the pandemic. Judge Kristin Wade wished everyone safe travels to those attending the state conference.

Announcements: (None)

Adjournment:

Judge Kristin Wade adjourned the meeting at 9:20 am. The next meeting is set for Thursday, July 15, 2021, via Microsoft Teams (meeting venue is subject to change). A reminder was provided to everyone to submit their monthly stats to Kimberly Rawls at Kimberly.Rawls@dallascounty.org via email by the 2nd Friday of each month for tracking and distribution.