



# DALLAS COUNTY, TEXAS

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

### Call to order and Introductions

Judge Kristin Wade called the meeting to order at 8:31 am. 39 staff and agency representatives/providers attended with names recorded via Microsoft Teams and email. No introductions were given.

**Judge Kristin Wade rearranged the agenda to accommodate the CSCD Director, Patrick Arnold to share his vision and goals of the department.**

*Mr. Arnold provided his departmental vision and goals and answered questions from 8:33am-9:00am*

### Minutes review and approval

The minutes from the April 15, 2021 meeting (packet pgs. 2-7), were reviewed with a motion and second by Harry Ingram and Chief Lynn Richardson respectively for acceptance with no discussion or corrections. The motion was unanimously passed, accepting the minutes as read without objection.

***Judge Kristin Wade asked the committee to discuss continuing either meeting virtually or in-person. Vickie Rice asked if the meeting could be held both virtually and in-person. The committee discussed and decided to conduct future meetings both virtually and in-person.***

### Provider updates regarding in-person and videoconference services:

**Nexus:** No report was provided.

**Homeward Bound:** Doug Denton stated that both in-person and videoconference services are being offered. He stated that outpatient services and groups remain virtual, and intakes are in-person. For residential detox, they are conducting over the phone screenings and scheduling in-person appointments for clients. Detox remains on a first come first serve basis and every morning they announce the number of available beds. Melissa Cade is on vacation this week but is responsible for tracking the waiting list for all funding sources. Dallas County consulted with their agency regarding their residential program and social distancing regulations and that they are limited in the number of beds that they can provide. He stated because of that their room occupancy has been reduced to half. He reported that on Mondays they have a vendor that comes in to provide COVID-19 testing to their patients. They haven't had a positive case since May 2021; therefore, their quarantine room has not been used. Judge Kristin Wade stated if there is a two to three month wait for clients to enter their program. Doug Denton answered stating yes, due to the reduction in the number of treatment beds. He explained that due to social distancing based on the funding source and allocation provided in the beginning of the year, specialty courts may have received four treatment beds, but two may have been

reduced due to social distancing regulations. Because of that reasoning, a patient would have to complete treatment before another is admitted. He also reported that the vendor that's providing their COVID-19 screenings is trying to acquire the Johnson and Johnson vaccine, so clients will not have to return for a second dosage. Last, he reported that construction began on the Dallas Deflects center Monday, July 12, 2021. The demolition process will take place over the next two weeks and then the construction phase will begin. The Dallas Deflects center is tentatively scheduled to open late October 2021.

Judge Lela Mays stated that in the core of the COVID-19 outbreak, there were clients waiting to be admitted into Homeward Bound for about four or five months. She asked if other agencies could be explored as additional vendors to provide inpatient treatment services such as Adult Rehabilitation Ministry (ARM) (Obie Bussey, Executive Director). She stated that STAC court currently has two clients receiving inpatient treatment services at ARM Ministries and believes there are services in the community that are not being utilized. Judge Kristin Wade asked what the funding source for those clients are since ARM Ministries is not a registered Dallas County vendor. Judge Lela Mays answered stating that they can receive funding from the City of Dallas drug courts and if the client has one ticket with the City of Dallas that client can receive full funding for inpatient treatment services.

**The Bridge:** Kelly Kane reported that they are continuing to work with a limited capacity for their night shelter. They have not received any recommendations to increase their bed capacity. The agency is ready to increase but is waiting on recommendations from the CDC regarding congregative shelter settings. They will continue to work with a limited bed capacity until that information is received. She reported that their day shelter services are growing. She stated that pre-pandemic their day shelter daily intake average was 900 residents. Currently, their day shelter daily intake average is 360 residents, which is 100 more residents than previously seen. She stated that there's a growing incongruity between individuals seen at day and night sheltering. She conveyed that other shelters are experiencing the same upsurge and are also working with a limited night sheltering capacity. She also reported that they are diligently working to get individuals into day shelter services (i.e., case management) and work with other community shelters to get them placed into shelter lodging. Last, she stated that there are many individuals who are unsheltered due to the lack of sheltering in the community.

**Competency Dismissal Project (Kendall McKimmey):** Kendall McKimmey reported that LaShonda Jefferson sent the DAs office a list of inmates awaiting to be sent to the state mental hospital termed the "incompetent bucket". The DAs office received the list and began with the misdemeanors cases and worked as a team along with NTBHA to address inmates presented on the list. Carly Turner saw all 59 misdemeanor clients on the list and provided clinical assessments and recommendations regarding their future release plan (i.e., going to the NTBHA, seen by Parkland Jail health for civil commitments, etc.). She reported that the PDs office played a major part in the process and mainly represented all clients who were on the list. Randall Scott and Maricela Canava also met with the inmates. She stated the team also played a key role in reinsuring that all inmates who were scheduled to be released to the state mental hospital were reassessed for other released options. She stated that they also completed all PR bonds and the Criminal Justice department released 33 clients to the NTBHA LivingRoom completing the release and warm hand off process. Gaelle Abrey contacted clients and exam all criminal history and psych assessments completed by Carly Turner to determine community safety. Judge Wade approved all bonds and signed all dismissals. She also stated that process involved a lot of work for the team outside their normal daily job duties and took a month to complete. Last, she reported that their goal was to complete 50 client cases from the list and that they were able to complete 43 client cases and 7 were still waiting to be process.

## **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. 8-56 for details).

**SAMHSA Update Teresa Saulsberry provided by Trina Crosby (pg. 8):** Trina Crosby reported that they have two new admissions and seven pending clients.

**530 Sub-Committee (pg. 9):** Deborah Hill thanked Judges Lela Mays and Rocky Jones for their representation at the TASC conference. She also acknowledged Chief Lynn Richardson who will be presenting at the NADCP conference scheduled for August 15-18th, 2021. The 530 Committee is engaged in conversations regarding restarting the upcoming Specialty Court video productions that were delayed due to the COVID pandemic. The committee is also working on the FY2022 budget planning process. Deborah Hill presented two voting items for the committee's approval: 1) Page 9, shows the STAC incentive request for approval of \$2,505.00.

***Judge Wade explained the process of how the incentive funds are allocated amongst the specialty courts and asked for a motion of approval of the 530 Committee's request for approval of \$2,505.00 toward incentive funds. Vickie Rice approved the motion on the floor and was seconded by Alyssa Aldrich. The motion was unanimously passed, accepting the motion without objection.***

2) The 530 Committee would like the committee's approval for entire day trainings for: The Urban One-on-One and The Implicit Bias trainings totaling \$14,500.00. Currently, the committee has \$20,271.95 remaining in the committee's budget for training. The training dates are scheduled for the end of August or September 2021 and the other is scheduled for October 2021. Judge Kristin Wade asked if these trainings would be available to anyone wanting to participate. Deborah Hill answered stating yes.

***Judge Kristin Wade asked for a motion of approval of the 530 Committee's request for approval of the \$14,500.00 for both the trainings: The Urban One-on-One and The Implicit Bias trainings. Judge La'Donna Harlan approved the motion on the floor and was seconded by Chief Lynn Richardson. The motion was unanimously passed, accepting the motion without objection.***

**BHLT & CSP Update (pgs. 10-16):** Laura Edmonds stated that the data begins on page 10 of the meeting packet. She reported that CSP continues to operate well. The team continues to work on the transition plan as the 1115 Waiver approaches conclusion on September 30, 2022. She also reported that they have potential funding options for waiver extensions and are currently working to see if they are eligible. Last, she reported that she will keep the committee updated with the outcome from the waiver funding extension options.

### **Jail Reports**

**Hospital Movement (pgs.17-18):** Janine Capetillo reported that for the month of June 2021, 12 individuals were admitted into the state hospital. Terrell State Hospital remains on diversion and Palestine Regional Medical Center opened a new psych unit that has 20 additional beds. She reported that they had 67 new incompetent mental health evaluations.

**Homeless & FUSE Reports Kimberly Rawls (pgs.19-23):** Kimberly Rawls stated that the data for both the homeless and FUSE reports are in the meeting packet on pages 19-23. She reported for the homeless report, there was a slight increase to the total jail population of 139 individuals and a slight decrease to the total

suspected MH bookins of 20 individuals. She also reported slight increases to both the total homeless bookins (77) and homeless bookins with a suspected mental health flag (42) and the average length to of stay bookin days (1). Because of the increase of the overall total jail bookins, it caused increases to most of the offense categories. Last, she reported that both the Criminal Trespass and Drug/Alcohol offenses had larger increases.

For FUSE, she reported both the client triage/screening numbers and jail releases into the program increased due to the courthouse beginning to reopen as well as the information that Kendall McKimney reported regarding the 33 releases sent to the NTBHA Livingroom and the partnership between NTBHA and FUSE.

**Jail Based Competency Restoration (JBCR) Laura Edmonds (pgs. 24-25)** Laura Edmonds stated that the data begins on page 24 of the meeting packet. She reported that they ended the month of June 2021, with 16 participants in the male program. They have many referrals for July 2021 and the referral numbers are increasing toward the maximum capacity of 24 participants. She reported that they had four successful completions: two were found competent and two had their cases dismissed and transited them into the program. For the women's JBCR program, (data is on page 25 of the meeting packet) they ended the month of June 2021, with 5 participants. She also reported that there was one successful completion from the women's JBCR program. Last, she reported that they have received additional referrals into the female JBCR for July 2021.

***Due to technical difficulties, Judge Kristin Wade asked Chief Lynn Richardson to provide the Public Defenders Report.***

**Public Defenders Report Lynn Richardson (pgs. 29-32)**: Chief Lynn Richardson yielded the floor to Vickie Rice. Vickie Rice reported that their data is included in the packet. She stated that since individuals have access to vaccines and the department has received their PPE gear, they can resume conducting jail releases. Their office is grateful to NTBHA and the Criminal Justice department for stepping up and assisting with their jail releases. She reported that client participation has increased within their various programs. Chief Lynn Richardson reported that she spoke with Lynn Cox, Assistant Public Defender for the City of Dallas Drug Courts. She stated that ARM Ministries currently has inpatient male and female beds available and the Executive Director, Obie Bussey, is out of the office this week, but will contact Jerry Porter to retrieve the bed cost. Judge Kristin Wade stated to add the City of Dallas Drug Courts/ARM Ministries as an agenda discussion item for the October 21, 2021 BHSC meeting. Judge Kristin Wade also asked Chief Lynn Richardson if she could clarify and share with the committee the level of faith-based agency participation regarding inpatient treatment. Doug Denton stated that faith-based organizations are listed under a special category, therefore they are not listed under the (Health and Human Services Commission) HHSC license treatment facility list and suggested that committee take that information into consideration.

**Dallas Deflects Center Laura Edmonds (pgs. 26-28)**: Laura Edmonds reported that the minutes from the June 2021, meeting are included on page 26 of the meeting packet. The committee did not meet in July 2021 and will resume August 2021. She reported that the main update that the committee discussed was the current construction that is occurring to Homeward Bound and that their committee planning items have continued. She also reported that many of the committee members are participating in sub-committees to help with the setup once construction is complete. Last, she reported that they hope to soft launch in October 2021.

**District Attorney's Report Julie Turnbull or Lee Pierson (pgs. 33-38)**: Julie Turnbull reported that their stats are on pages 33-38 of the meeting packet. She reported that the DAs office has been closely working with the Criminal Justice department regarding the opioid response grant and that their office would provide further detail regarding what the grant offers. She reported that the grant will allow them to exam the Pretrial Diversion's workflow that could be beneficial with properly funneling individuals into courts. They are currently developing a new Pretrial Diversion workflow processes and will gradually begin to implement the new

process. She reported that both her and the Criminal Justice department are apart of a panel discussion for the Dallas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association (DCDLAs) scheduled for August 9, 2021 to begin implementing the new process. They will also present this information the BHLT on September 9, 2021 and will be able to address any questions or concerns that the BHSC may have during the October 21, 2021 meeting. She stated that she believes this new process would aid in assisting the defense bar with having clients examined to help decide the best options for their case. With their Pretrial Diversion effort, they were able to receive grant funding to purchase new software to help track all pre-diversion information and accessible by the entire court team.

Lee Pierson stated for the Judicial Commission board that he serves on their main goal is to reduce the waiting list and address competency issues statewide. He stated that he will be apart of a panel discussion scheduled for October 15, 2021 to discuss those issues. He reported that he would be meeting with the group to brainstorm ideas regarding ways to address those issues scheduled for August 18, 2021. He reported that the board is creating a statewide strike force to address the state hospital's wait list. He plans to contact some BHSC Member and Community Partners to receive input regarding the state hospital wait list before August 18, 2021. He reported that both him and Kendall McKimmey are scheduled to present at the DCDLA meeting today, July 15, 2021 to share what the mental health division is, the programs that are involved, and how to refer cases into those programs. Judge Lela Mays stated that the Judicial Commission send a link for those who would like to attend either in-person or virtually. Chief Lynn Richardson asked to explain the partial expunctions and how that would affect participants participating in Pretrial Diversion programs. Julie Turnbull answered stating that their office is inserting new language into all the Pretrial Diversion contracts for either Specialty Courts, Mental Health PTI or regular PTIs. She reported that most specialty courts already include the new language in their contracts to conduct future evaluations, recidivism studies and cost benefit analysis, which can not be conducted if the information is not tracked to determine success rates. Chief Lynn Richardson also asked if individuals completing the clinic due to the partial expunction, in the future will they be eligible for the standard expunction or will there be a separate group. Julie Turnbull answered stating she would have to contact Karen Wise to retrieve that information and inform the committee later.

***Judge Kristin Wade rearranged the agenda and asked for Jennifer Torres or a Metrocare representative to provide an update.***

### **Provider Reports**

**Metrocare Jennifer Torres or a Metrocare Representative (pgs.40-48):** No report provided.

**IPS Reports Enrique Morris/Jessica Simmons (pgs.49-50):** Enrique Morris reported that they have adjusted their mitigation strategies on June 14, 2021, to return to in-person services. He reported that clients were participating in in-person services within the community and at the clinic. He stated on June 14, 2021 they increased the ratio of in-person service delivery and issued a comprehensive COVID testing program for all staff and participants. He stated that they have had zero positive COVID cases since the past five weeks. They have worked to develop a plan to move participants back into remote services and fortunately have not had to implement it. Based on both regional COVID trends, community representative, and their own personal data collection they are working again to adjust their mitigation strategy to increase the ratio of in-person services on the third week of August 2021. They initially focused on specialty courts and will be shifting to include all services. He reported that when their services went remote during the COVID pandemic that they were able to address many accesses to care barriers. Because of that, they experienced a 19% service increase, which they were able to sustain throughout the pandemic. Some of the barriers included transportation, childcare, etc. and they would like to continue to help relieve those barriers for participants. They are looking to provide a blended treatment approach of providing both in-person, which many service groups offered, and virtual

treatment service options held on Monday, Tuesdays, and Thursdays as well as and a certain percentage of groups held remotely. They are working to determine the coherent criteria. Last, he thanked NTBHA for their work in the community, the BHSC and community partners, as well as the regional during the COVID pandemic.

**The Bridge Kelly Kane (pg. 39):** Please refer to the previous report provided.

***Judge Kristin Wade rearranged the agenda and asked Nathaniel Clark Jr. to provide the Specialty Court CSCD report.***

**Specialty Courts CSCD Nathaniel Clark Jr. (pgs. 53-56):** Nathaniel Clark Jr. reported that the data is in the packet. He reported that they have had admissions into every specialty court program. He stated that they have had some unsuccessful discharges, but they are continuing to graduate participants. They continue to have clients enrolled and complete their programs even with the spike in COVID cases. Judge Kristin Wade requested adding to the October 21, 2021 agenda discussing the benefits and barriers of in-person and remote specialty court program services. Nathaniel Clark Jr. stated that there are about ten specialty courts that are currently providing in-person services in some capacity and about two specialty courts that are operating virtually. Last, he stated that the specialty courts are working to return to pre-pandemic operations.

**Outpatient Competency Janine Capetillo (pg. 51):** Janine Capetillo reported that the data is consist. She reported that after today, July 15, 2021, they will have 10 participants from misdemeanor courts in outpatient competency. She also reported that there are 23 participants from felony courts in outpatient competency. Last, she reported many providers are returning to in-person groups and are predicting an increase among that group.

**DIVERT Trina Crosby (pg. 52):** Trina Crosby reported that their numbers are on page 52 in the meeting packet. She reported that they returned to in-person court this week (July 12, 2021). She also reported despite the increasing COVID cases they will continue to provide in-person court. Last, she reported that they continue to graduate clients as they previously were pre-pandemic.

#### **Announcements:**

- Enrique Morris and Jessica Simmons introduced Cedric Fielder the new Community Relations Manager who is previous IPS employee, Taylor Ray's replacement.
- Judge Kristin Wade asked Kimberly Rawls to forward the Judicial Summit on Mental Health link send by Judge Lela Mays to the committee.

#### **Adjournment:**

Judge Kristin Wade adjourned the meeting at 9:54 am. The next meeting is set for Thursday, October 21, 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](mailto:Kimberly.Rawls@dallascounty.org) via email by the 2nd Friday of each month for tracking and distribution.