



DALLAS COUNTY, TEXAS

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

Call to order and Introductions

Chief Lynn Pride Richardson called the meeting to order at 8:32 am. 40 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 July 15, 2021 meeting (packet pgs.1-6), were reviewed with a motion and second by Laura Edmonds and Judge La'Donna Harlan respectively for acceptance with no discussion or corrections. The motion was unanimously passed, accepting the minutes as read without objection.

CSCD Update (Arnold Patrick): Mr. Patrick provided an overview of the CSCD's progress pursuing the July 15, 2021, BHSC meeting. He provided the following updates:

- 1) The department has completed extensive work on assessments in Assessment, Treatment, and Research Services (ATRS) division.
- 2) They are working to manage back log and with the DAs office.
- 3) The specialty courts have hired new staff to assist with Texas Risk Assessment System (TRAS).
- 4) Work has been completed with Judicial Treatment Center (JTC).
- 5) They renewed the Gateway contract.
- 6) Completed program evaluations for all CSCD programs and created a position to complete and monitor program evaluations for overall success.

Chief Lynn Proud Richardson reiterated that in both the previous BHLT, and Jail Population meetings conversation ensued regarding the wait time of getting people assessed. Mr. Arnold Patrick stated yes, there's a delay and the department is working to address the wait time.

Provider updates regarding in-person and videoconference services:

Chief Lynn Proud Richardson asked the community providers to provide status updates regarding their in-person and videoconference services.

Stacey Burns (Nexus Recovery): No report provided.

Doug Denton (Homeward Bound): Doug Denton reported that they had their first two COVID cases in late August-early September 2021 (around the Labor Day Holiday) in the detox unit, which caused them to close it for 10 days. He reported that a person from detox was admitted into residential treatment and tested negative for COVID became symptomatic about four days into his stay on the men's unit. He then tested positive for

COVID and was isolated. The health department quarantined and stopped all admissions to the residential unit. He stated that they usually can isolate one person, but the health department believes that for two or more cases all admissions must cease. He stated that they retest individuals who are ready to graduate and allow them to leave if they remain negative. Therefore, that stopped admissions into the men's residential unit for the first part of September 2021. He participated in a statewide call with other residential service providers yesterday, October 20, 2021 and they are also having the same experiences. Their outpatient services are almost operating at 100% virtual, but if someone cannot obtain their initial paperwork, they will meet them in a socially distanced manner to assist. For this week, they have admitted four individuals from the Criminal Justice department, CSCD, and from the SAMHSA grant. Three clients were released from the Dallas County Lew Sterrett jail and one came from the street. They are working to make any available beds accessible to their funding sources. They are cognizant of the various entities i.e., NTBHA, CSCD, and the various courts who are trying to make referrals into their agency and the length of time that individuals must remain incarcerated.

His hope is with the future opening of the Dallas County Deflection Jail Diversion Center (Dallas Deflects Project) will help alleviate some of the individuals booking into the Dallas County Lew Sterrett jail by giving law enforcement agencies a third detaining option. He stated that the opening of the Dallas Deflects Center will assist those who are visibly disoriented and would have either been arrested for an offense, admitted to the hospital, or APPOW will be taken to their facility to be triaged and accessed in cooperation with NTBHA and Parkland hospital. He shared that the Right Care team currently has offered tremendous efforts toward intervening with many of these situations. Their facility has both an onsite detox and psychiatric crisis residential units for those that meet the criteria. Individuals' can immediately be triaged into those services and stabilized with hospitalization and incarceration. He stated that the anticipated completion date for construction to their facility for the Dallas Deflects Center is mid December 2021. Parkland hospital is working to establish their computer system and arrange their labs. The furniture has been ordered for this level of care and are experiencing supply line delays. The special chairs that they ordered for the unit will probably not be available until January 2022. Both the beds and lockers will not be available until mid-December 2021. He will provide an update to the BHLT during their next scheduled meeting.

Chief Lynn Proud Richardson reported that Mark Cuban donated funds to assist with security at the Dallas Deflects Center and asked either Doug Denton to share information regarding this donation. Doug Denton stated that Mark Cuban donated \$277,000.00 to match the Department of Justice (DOJ) grant award to cover security costs. He stated that the Dallas Deflects planning committee plans to model the Ed Emmett Mental Health Diversion Center's security team in Houston, Texas. Beginning next week, security will be onsite from 6am-6pm to secure the construction, which Mr. Cuban's donation helped to assist. They are also working to establish client peak times to get individuals checked into the facility. The following companies have made donations toward the project: AT&T, The Catholic Diocese of Dallas, Judge John Creuzot, Commissioner Dr. Theresa Daniel, and the Texas Bar Foundation. The Parkland Foundation raised \$350,000.00, toward their on-site clinic. Parkland will also provide over 1,000 sq ft of office space to complete medical assessments. NTBHA will provide on-site mental health assessments. Chief Lynn Proud Richardson asked if the security team will be provided by law enforcement or a private company. Doug Denton answered stating it would unarm security provided by a private security company, Allied Universal Security, which currently provides security at the Salvation Army.

Chief Lynn Proud Richardson exited the meeting and appointed Vickie Rice as Chair Pro Tem for the remaining of the meeting to govern meeting responsibilities.

Kelly Kane (The Bridge): Kelly Kane reported that they are continuing to offer in-person services. They currently see about 400 people daily for day services and are sheltering 250 individuals at night. They experienced a minor COVID outbreak last month in their transitional shelter. She reported that overall, about 20 people tested positive for COVID and they were able to safely quarantine them. As a result, they had to close operations for about two weeks and did not accept any new people. Last, she reported that operations are going well and that they can accept residents back into day services and night sheltering.

Vickie Rice asked if there were any other treatment providers or community partners that would like to report on their in-person or virtual status. Enrique Morris stated that IPS continues to operate all programs in a blended fashion offering both tele-health and in-person services at the various service locations. Admission into the facility continues to require a rapid COVID test and they are grateful that they can operate in that manner to offer an infection free environment. Both COVID infection and hospitalization rates have decreased. They anticipate adjusting their mitigation strategy between now and December 2021 and will keep this committee updated of any changes. Vickie Rice announced that the BHSC now meets quarterly and if there are any treatment providers and community partners who have any information to share before the next scheduled meeting to please send to Kimberly Rawls to distribute among the committee.

Vickie Rice asked if there are any other treatment or community providers that wish to provide updates. She asked Jennifer Torres (Metrocare) to provide an update. Jennifer Torres stated that Metrocare continues to provide blended services via in-person and virtually, which most services are being offered in-person. She reported that over the last few months, they were able to expand some services and opened an evening clinic on Lancaster and Kiest, which runs Monday through Thursday from 5:00pm-10:00pm. They added a mobile crisis team and a 24-hour hotline number. They also have a peer warm line during the day from 8:00am-10:00pm. Vickie Rice asked if she could share any informational documentation with Kimberly Rawls to disseminate among the committee. Jennifer Torres stated that she would send the flyer to share with the committee. Vickie Rice asked if there are any other community partners who would like to provide updates.

Judge Lela Mays announced that tentatively scheduled for November 17, 2021 @ 6:00pm-8:00pm will be a community event hosted by Judge Tammy Kemp, Metrocare, Dr. Justin Thompson, and herself to provide training on Narcan distribution. She stated that a STAC graduate, various doctors, and vendors, as well as IPS will be apart of the event. The goal is to keep the community informed regarding opioid related deaths and that there has been a 30% increased of opioid related overdose deaths in the community. She stated that she would provide Kimberly Rawls with a flyer to disseminate amongst the committee. She also encouraged anyone who oversees either a corporation or conducts Dallas County business to have Narcan available at their locations just in case they encounter anyone who may have a substance abuse addiction. Last, she reported that they have secured 100 kits to provide to individuals who attend the training.

Janine Metzigner asked Vickie Rice if she should provide the legislative report now or wait until the announcement portion of the meeting. Vickie Rice suggested waiting to the announcement portion of the meeting.

City of Dallas Drug Courts/ARM Ministries Update (Chief Lynn Richardson): No report provided.

SAMHSA Update Teresa Saulsberry (pg. 7): Teresa Saulsberry reported that on September 29, 2021 they ended year three of their 5-year SAMHSA grant. She also reported that they serviced 37 individuals and their metric goal was to service 40 individuals, which was commendable due to the COVID pandemic barriers. Last, she reported that the contracts have been completed for year four of the program.

*** 530 Sub Committee Shenna Oriabure (pgs. 8-23):** Shenna Oriabure reported that the 530 Committee is currently in the FY2022 budget year and are preparing for various trainings. She reported that there are four voting items in the packet, what both approval for incentive and training requests that were submitted over this past quarter.

- 1) Shenna Oriabure stated that the first action item is on page 19 and it is a request to send a Probation Supervisor to the CMIT Mental Health conference in Galveston, Texas for a total of \$945.13.

Vickie Rice asked for a motion of approval of the 530 Committee's request for approval of \$945.13 to send a Probation Supervisor to the CMIT Mental Health conference in Galveston, Texas. Laura Edmonds approved the motion on the floor and was seconded by Harry Ingram. The motion was unanimously passed, accepting the motion without objection.

- 2) Shenna Oriabure stated that the second action item is on page 22 and it is a request for DDC incentives for 25 participants for a total cost of \$375.00.

Vickie Rice asked for a motion of approval of the 530 Committee's request for approval of \$375.00 for DDC incentives for 25 participants for a total cost of \$375.00. Maricela Canava approved the motion on the floor and was seconded by LaShonda Strather. The motion was unanimously passed, accepting the motion without objection.

- 3) Shenna Oriabure stated that the third action item is on page 20 and it is a request to send both PD Attorney, William Randall Scott, and the Caseworker to the Texas Forensic Mental Health Conference 2021 in the amount of \$1,760.00.

Vickie Rice asked for a motion of approval of the 530 Committee's request for approval of \$1,760.00 to send both PD Attorney, William Randall Scott, and the Caseworker to the Texas Forensic Mental Health Conference 2021. Harry Ingram approved the motion on the floor and was seconded by Doug Denton. The motion was unanimously passed, accepting the motion without objection.

- 4) Shenna Oriabure stated that the fourth action item is on page 23 and it is a request for DWI misdemeanor court incentives for 35 participants for a total cost of \$525.00.

Vickie Rice asked for a motion of approval of the 530 Committee's request for approval of \$525.00 in incentives for 35 participants for the DWI misdemeanor court. Judge La'Donna Harlan approved the motion on the floor and was seconded by Maricela Canava. The motion was unanimously passed, accepting the motion without objection.

Vickie Rice suggested that anyone who may not attend the 530 Committee meetings to either attend or send a representative and to contact Shenna Oriabure for meeting information.

BHLT & CSP Update Laura Edmonds (pgs. 24-29): Laura Edmonds reported that the CSP reports are in the meeting packet. She reported that they are working on their reporting, which is due October 2021. She reported that calendar year 2021 was supposed to be the last year of grant funding for the CSP but were informed by the state that the grant maybe extended for an additional year into calendar year 2022. Staff is currently working to create plans for those metrics. They are also working heavily with 1622 Code of Criminal Procedure to expand those who are being identified and assessed who are entering the jail with a mental health need. Last, she reported that they just had their first oversight committee meeting and can hopefully provide the BHSC with more details during the January 20, 2022 meeting.

Jail Reports

Hospital Movement Janine Capetillo (pgs. 30-31): Janine Capetillo reported that there was a correction to the data in the packet and eight individuals were admitted into the hospital opposed to seven. She

reported that Terrell State hospital is off diversion and are beginning to admit patients. For the end of September 2021, there were 318 individuals on the wait list, which continues to increase. Last, she reported that they had a large movement during their last dangerous review board meeting, so hopefully the MSU patients will begin to move shortly.

Homeless & FUSE Reports Kimberly Rawls (pgs. 32-45): Kimberly Rawls reported both the FUSE and Homeless reports are in the meeting packet. For FUSE, she stated that for the 1st year of the program (July 2020-July 2021), the Jail Navigators screened 2,830 individuals and their goal was to screen 3,000 individuals for the first year, which they missed by only 170 individuals. She reported that the screening goal is still commendable even with the global effects of the COVID pandemic and the various adjustments within the County and Community partners to make accommodations for clients. The FUSE Jail Navigators screened for the months of July-September 2021 a total of 1,071, individuals and are on track to screen over 3,000 clients for year two of the program and possibly exceeding it. They also housed or placed on the housing priority list 13 individuals for July-September 2021. For the Homeless report, she reported that she added to the chat corrections to pages 3 and 4. For the months of July-September 2021, there was a decrease to the overall general jail population of 226 individuals. For August 2021-September 2021, there was a slight increase to the homeless population and the average length of stay remained constant. Last, she reported that there was a decrease to the Drug/Alcohol category and increases to the HOLDS, Other, Sexual Offense, and Theft categories.

Jail Based Competency Restoration (JBCR) Laura Edmonds (pgs. 46-47): Laura Edmonds reported that the data is on pages 46-47 of the meeting packet. She reported that the Male JBCR data is on page 46 of the meeting packet and that they ended the month of September 2021 with 24 participants, which is their programs' capacity, and it continues to remain full. She reported that there is a small wait list for the Male JBCR program, and it continues to be effective. They were able to successfully release seven individuals into the community for the month of September 2021. Six were found competent and one individual was transferred to OCR. The cost savings information is on the bottom of the page. The Female JBCR data is on page 47. They ended the month of September 2021 with nine individuals and the current census is 12 individuals enrolled. The program is accepting additional participants and is encouraging referrals from any attorneys whose female clients have been sentenced to the state hospital to make a referral. Vickie Rice asked if there are plans to open another Male JBCR tank. Laura Edmonds answered stating they will continue to research funding opportunities. She also stated that the jail continues to have limited space availability due to quarantine procedures, which may create barriers. They will continue to have conversations regarding how to address those barriers in the future with the Sheriff's department. Last, she stated that because of the limited space availability in the jail there's not a singular tank assigned to the female JBCR program. Vickie Rice also shared that there have been conversations toward possibly building a new jail facility due to the growth of the County and including space for the JBCR program. Vickie Rice also encouraged gathering data to reflect the need of the program to provide in future construction planning of the new jail facility.

Dallas Deflects Center Laura Edmonds (pgs. 48-49): Laura Edmonds stated to please refer to Doug Denton's previously provided report update as well as the September 2021 meeting notes provided in the BHSC meeting packet.

Public Defenders Report Lynn Richardson (pgs. 50-52): Vickie Rice stated to please refer to their data on pages 50-52 of the meeting packet.

District Attorney's Report Julie Turnbull or Lee Pierson (pgs. 53-62): Julie Turnbull reported that their data is on pages 53-62. She reported that the last two pages of the report reflect the Community Corrections Improvement Foundation (CCIF). She stated that she's a board member and Judge Kristin Wade asked her to share this information with the committee. Both Paul Blocker and Deborah Hill are the two newest board members. The board is like the 530 Committee but is a non-profit that was created to benefit specialty courts. Tammie Artesi was the former board treasurer and since her retirement, John

Huxtel has resumed as current treasurer. He is a current board member and a former specialty court graduate. He suggested a new reimbursement process for specialty courts. She reported that each specialty court Judge has been given a debit card with their court information and standing balance and will continue to approve any needed court expenses. The Judge can assign the card to any team member who will be responsible for purchasing any needed court room expense. She stated to be please turn in all receipts with the Judges approved expenses to them for auditing purposes. On January 1, 2022 they can reload everyone's card to the initial allocated funding amount once all receipts and approvals have been collected. She stated that they have until December 31, 2021 to use the current funds on your debit cards, and they will not roll over. The Criminal Justice department's new Pre-trial referral and assessment process is going well, and their office is receiving those assessments along with the treatment recommendations. She also reported that their office then offers plea bargains based on those recommendations. Last, she reported that the CCIF golf tournament raised over \$12,000.00.

Lee Pierson reported that the Texas Juridical Commission for Mental Health has been working on the breach book. He reported that they are pushing an "Eliminate the Wait" initiative to address the state mental health hospital wait times. The wait time for maximum security at the state hospital is +600 days. They created a toolkit to help all individuals/departments who are involved in the process and will send that information to Kimberly Rawls to provide to the committee. The conference last week went well. He stated that he participated in a panel that presented on how to eliminate the wait list for state mental health hospital admissions. The commission asked him and several other members to participate in the train-the-trainer training scheduled for December 7-8, 2021. Training will consist of them visiting other counties and prosecutors to encourage and share with them other methods that are working in Dallas County for mental health client cases. Last, he reported that he should have further information to share during the January 20, 2022 BHSC meeting.

Provider Reports

The Bridge Kelly Kane (pg. 63): Kelly Kane reported their data is consist and that their average daily housing of clients is one per day and they have housed about 360-365 individuals yearly even through the COVID pandemic. She reported that the intake department has a new diversion funding program, which is a grant through the City of Dallas, and they are now able to divert more higher functioning individuals to other locations who do not need shelter assistance. Vickie Rice asked Kelly Kane to provide informational documentation to Kimberly Rawls to send to the committee regarding qualifications/eligibility of the new grant funding from the City of Dallas.

Metrocare Jennifer Torres or a Metrocare Representative (pgs. 64-66): Jennifer Torres reported that the data is in the meeting packet. She reported that DDC needs referrals and has been operating with 40 individuals and capacity is 60, which has been consist during the COVID pandemic. The specialty courts are also running below capacity and referrals are needed at 54-67 individuals over the last quarter and should be at 100. Vickie Rice asked Jennifer Torres to please notify the committee when referrals are down, so they can refer new clients.

IPS Reports Enrique Morris/Jessica Simmons (pgs. 67-72): Enrique Morris reported that their data is on pages 67-72 of the meeting packet. He reported the initial graphic on the patient intake trend had a higher merge of error then they preferred and will investigate and send any corrections to the committee. They saw an increase to their psychiatric distribution services for MAT programming as well as increases to the distribution of their female population from specialty courts and Caucasian ethnic distribution. Last, he reported that the opiated representation of drugs of choice continues to increase across the specialty court population.

Problem Solving Courts

Outpatient Competency Janine Capetillo (pg. 73) Janine Capetillo reported that their OCR numbers have increased due to the state mental health hospital wait times. She also stated that they ended the month of September 2021 with 42 individuals: 18 in misdemeanor and 24 in felony courts and that data has increased since the release of this report.

DIVERT Trina Crosby (pg. 74): Trina Crosby reported that between July and September 2021 DIVERT has had 27 graduates, 12 new enrollments, and currently have 76 total active participants, which is half of their capacity. They are anticipating the new enrollment process through the DAs office to generate new referrals into the program. She stated that if anyone has clients that meet their program criteria to make a referral.

Specialty Courts CSCD Nathaniel Clark Jr. (pgs. 75-78): Nathaniel Clark Jr. reported their data is on pages 75-78. He reported that they continue to operate both in-person and virtually. They continue to engage with their community partners. They look forward to more in-person engagement as COVID cases decrease. Last, he reported that all the mental health officers attended last week's virtual training.

Announcements

- Janie Metzinger announced that legislation has completed their third special call session in which they divided funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). She reported that it consisted of two different funding sources: The Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery fund and the Coronavirus Capital Project fund. She reported that there's both mental health and justice and courts funds. For the mental health funds, there's two billion for surge staff for state, local and psychiatric hospitals. Funding includes purchasing of therapeutic drugs, monoclonal antibodies, operation of infusion center, and broadband categories and will add an additional \$5.4 million into the broadband category. \$113 million for the child mental health consortium, which adds both pregnant women and those who are one-year postpartum. The bill also dissonates \$20.5 million for perinatal mental health treatment as well as \$237.8 million for the new state hospital in Dallas County, which is in addition to the \$44.7 million previously allocated for the new state hospital in Dallas County.

She reported that \$15 million has been allocated for a short-term psych hospital in Lubbock, Texas and will add 100-beds to the Sunrise Cannon hospital. \$40 million for a 100-bed comprehensive behavioral health center in the Permian Basin (Midland/Odessa) Texas area. The next step of the legislative plan is to rebuild Terrell State hospital. \$160 million has been allocated on the Trustee's Office of the Governor for victims of crime. \$52.2 million for the Texas Attorney General's office for sexual assault program. \$54.7 for compensation of victims of crime. Last, she stated that funding was allocated to address court short-falls and fees. \$7 million to the comp controller to pay visiting Judges and Support staff. \$3 million to the Texas Judicial Branch Office of Court Administration to address backlog in cases including information technology support. \$13.9 million to the Texas Indulgent Defense Commission for the Fair Defense Account. \$200,000 for the Office of Capital and Forensic Writs for addressing backlog and pandemic related court cost. \$5.8 million to the Texas Commission on Law enforcement. Last, she reported that an increased budget authority for the Texas Judicial Counselor Office of Court Admission of \$1.3 million was improved for information technology.

- Vickie Rice reiterated attending the Narcan event scheduled for November 17, 2021 that Judge Lela Mays previously discussed.
- Doug Denton announced that they will have an open house on Friday, November 12, 2021 from 3:00pm-6:00pm at their new facility on 2535 Lonestar Drive, Dallas, Texas.

- Vickie Rice announced that depending on the COVID status the committee may either remain virtual or offer a blended meeting option for the January 20, 2022 BHSC meeting. She also stated to please send Kimberly Rawls any information that anyone would like to disseminate among the committee.

Adjournment:

Vickie Rice adjourned the meeting at 9:43 am. The next meeting is set for Thursday, January 20, 2022, 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.