



# DALLAS COUNTY, TEXAS

## Minutes of the Behavioral Health Steering Committee (BHSC) Meeting Thursday, April 21, 2022 Via Microsoft Teams

### Call to order and Introductions

Judge Kristin Wade called the meeting to order at 8:28 am. 44 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 20, 2022, meeting (packet pgs.1-4), 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.

*Judge Kristin Wade stated that she would like to keep the BHSC meetings remote until the 7.21.2022, to then reevaluate to see if the meetings should remain virtual. She asked the committee for any feedback and the committee offered none.*

### Presentation

“Medical Assist Therapy Program” Patrick Jones (Parkland Health & Hospital System)

\*\*Patrick Jones presented from approximately 8:32am – 8:46am with a brief Q & A session held afterwards. \*\*

***\*\*Judge Kristin Wade rearranged the agenda and asked Jeremy Lewis to provide both the Jail Based Competency Restoration (JBCR) (pgs. 25-26) and Outpatient Competency (pg. 45-46) update.\*\****

Jeremy Lewis stated that there are currently 382 people on the hospital wait list, 115 will go to a maximum- security facility and 267 will go to a non-maximum secure facility for the month of March. The only wait time that has decreased is for maximum security male facilities. He also stated that the other facilities have increased. Last, he stated that he believes that the Terrell Stated Hospital is still on diversion, and it is slowly advancing for all the other hospitals. Judge Kristin Wade explained the competency procedure at the Frank Crowley Courthouse and how the Medical Assist Therapy Program would be beneficial with assisting as an option to the state hospital wait list process. She asked Vickie Rice if she would like to add any addition feedback regarding this topic. Vickie Rice answered stating that the PDs office has meet twice with the Private Bar attorneys regarding the program language. She stated that they are on board with any process that Parkland Health will be creating to lend to the immediate restoration of their clients. She stated that they conversed about how the information should flow and any triggers. She also stated that there were concerns about the program language. Members from the PDs office, their pellet division, and members of the private bar are working to develop three options to present to the BHSC for feedback and approval. Last, she stated

that the PDs are awaiting Parkland Health's legal response to incorporate the verbiage. Judge Kristin Wade added that she understands the challenge with the wording and hopes it is clarified to benefit everyone.

**City of Dallas Drug Courts/ARM Ministries Update (Chief Lynn Richardson):** Chief Lynn Richardson reported that she had the opportunity to meet with two of their public defenders (PDs). Lynn Cox, who is a PD for the South Dallas drug court and Lashonda Struthers, who is their mental health PD have sent clients to ARM Ministries. She stated that ARM Ministries has a female component called "Warm Ministries". The feedback that she received from both Lynn Cox and LaShonda Struthers regarding ARM Ministries is that the organization seems to be compelling and that the clients appear to like it, but there are some challenges with both female and mentally ill participants. She stated that per LaShonda, the organization was having problems with medication compliant procedures and that they do not have 24-hour supervision. She also stated that they were experiencing staff challenges but appeared committed to doing good work for their clients. She reported that Executive Director, Mr. Obie Bussey, also seems to be responsive. The South Dallas Drug Court stated that ARM Ministries is good about responding to questions or concerns that appear in their court but have challenges with women. They believe some challenges maybe due to the organization mixing both males and females classes. She stated that Lynn Cox believed they suspended the female program and would check and follow-up if it has been reinstated. Chief Lynn Richardson reiterated that Lynn Cox shared that their clients seem to like working with ARM Ministries. Clients have a certain measure of freedom even if they relapse, that they want to return to the program and get back on track. Chief Lynn Richardson stated that the South Dallas Drug Court will continue to monitor the program like other programs in their division. She stated that they will continue to research why females are experiencing more challenges and neither Lynn Cox nor LaShonda Struthers were familiar with the male success/graduation rate data and will research that information with Chief Lynn Richardson. Last, Chief Lynn Richardson asked the committee if anyone has worked with ARM or Warm Ministries. Judge La'Donna Harlan shared that she previously had a female client that was enrolled in their court program. She stated that ARM Ministries provided good communication especially when the client faced challenges. She stated that the organization worked closely with the court to provide feedback and client updates. She also reported that the client has returned to treatment court. The client is doing well and is a leader in the program. Last, Judge La'Donna Harlan shared that the program appeared to be beneficial for her client. Chief Lynn Richardson shared that the South Dallas Drug Court also stated that they never had communication or working issues with ARM Ministries, and they are researching their success rates and data/statistics. Chief Lynn Richardson also shared feedback from the PDs staff regarding their definition of success rates, which include individuals successfully graduating from the program and living a drug free life. Last, she stated that she would provide follow-up information during the next scheduled BHSC meeting.

***\*\*Judge Kristin Wade commented off the agenda items to discuss the Texas Association of Specialty Courts (TASC) Conference in Corpus Christi, which was held April 11-13, 2022.\*\****

Judge Kristin Wade stated that Dallas County had a large attendance at the conference, due to the BHSC, 530 Committee, 530 funds, stipends, and other funding to pay for staff to attend. She stated that Dallas County has great works and representation on how to best spend 530 funds and was surprised that various counties were not aware of 530 funding. She also shared that since Dallas County is larger than some of the other funded counties, they receive more funding. She thanked Judge Lela Mays, Judge Raquel "Rocky" Jones, Julie Turnbull, Shenna Oriabure, and any other Dallas County staff that presented during the conference. Judge Kristin Wade asked Harry Ingram, if she missed any other Dallas County staff presenters during the conference. Harry Ingram answered stating that she named all the Dallas County staff presenters and that Shenna Oriabure did an amazing job presenting on trauma.

**\*\*Judge Kristin Wade rearranged the agenda and asked Providers to give their reports listed on pages 39-44, Shenna Oriabure (530 Sub Committee/pgs. 7-12) and Janie Metzinger (Legislative Update). \*\***

**The Bridge Kelly Kane (pg. 39):** Kelly Kane reported that operations continue to run as normal. Negative COVID tests are required from individuals seeking day sheltering and that they are at limited capacity for night sheltering. She stated that they have added more female beds and hope to add more male beds in the future. Harry Ingram asked Kelly Kane where to send folks to receive COVID tests before being accepted into The Bridge. Kelly Kane answered stating that some COVID testing locations are directly correlated with positive cases. She reported that The Bridge has limited capacity to test on site and does test Dallas County referrals.

**Homeward Bound (Doug Denton/Verbal report):** No Homeward Bound representative was on the call, so Judge Kristin Wade asked either Laura Edmonds or Shenna Oriabure to provide any wait time information that they maybe privy too. Shenna Oriabure answered stating that she believes their wait time is about three months.

**Nexus (Stacy Burns/Verbal report):** Stacy Burns reported that their wait time for adult programs is about a week. She shared that her staff went to the jail this morning to pick up four jail releases that they had previously sent an email about last Wednesday and none were ready. She also stated that they sent a follow-up email and received a reply from jail staff stating that they had just received the email this morning and that they are working to get the individuals released. Last, she stated that their driver will return at 11:00am today to pick up the individuals. Judge Kristin Wade asked Laura Edmonds if she could provide feedback regarding jail release staff communication. Laura Edmonds stated that she is not sure what happened but stated that she has also experienced similar setbacks when scheduling jail releases. She stated that she would email Stacy Burns to help resolve with this matter.

**IPS Reports (Enrique Morris/Jessica Simmons (pgs. 40-44):** Enrique Morris stated that their approximate wait time for intake and assessment is 3 to 10 days depending on patient type. He reported that they attempted to triage individuals based on clinical status and the significance of legal need, which proved to be ineffective. Therefore, they decided to reallocate some staff resources toward scheduling and intake assessments to return to normal operations. Judge Kristin Wade thanked IPS for their presentation during the TASC Conference. Judge Kristin Wade also stated that outpatient treatment at IPS is going quickly which is beneficial for those involved in both specialty courts and the mental health section. Enrique Morris shared concerns that may affect some specialty court programs and their metrics are included in the meeting packet. He stated that they redistributed their patients gender profile with increased representation of female patients. He reported that along the ethnic distribution they saw an increased rate of Caucasian and opiate involved patients. He stated that they have been consistent with the community's approach to COVID. They have discontinued the mask requirement while in care and seek to promote public safety regarding vaccinations. If a patient determines that it is appropriate and is willing to wear a mask while in care, is allowed but no longer mandated while in session. Telehealth options will remain, and they have increased the ratio of in person treatment options. He reported that Jessica Minor, Community Relations Manager, will contact some of the committee members to establish quarterly collaboration meetings to address how some of these adjustments might affect court programs. Judge Kristin Wade shared that the wait time for the Judge John C. Creuzot Judicial Treatment Center (JJCCJTC-JTC) is rapidly moving and has about a three week wait time. Nathaniel Clark Jr. reported that the wait time is about three weeks, which is not tremendously long, and JTC has done a good job of getting individuals that have been sanctioned admitted.

**530 Sub Committee Shenna Oriabure (pgs. 7-12):** Shenna Oriabure reported that the committee is working on projects and will report the outcomes during the next BHSC meeting.

Janie Metzinger was not on the call to provide the legislative update. Judge Kristin Wade asked the committee if they have any questions, comments, and announcements. Julie Turnbull shared that the DAs office along with the Criminal Justice Department and Joe Powell (APAA) are writing for a Peer Support grant application to hopefully receive funding to create a more robust peer support team within the specialty courts programs. She reported that they are also working with Patrick Jones (Parkland Health) and the MAT program to begin peer support services in the jail. She also stated that they may reach out to various Judges and departments for letters of support.

**Metrocare Jennifer Torres or a Metrocare Representative (No data provided):** Jason Mills reported that both their STAR and SET numbers are low and need referrals. He also reported that they are fully staffed and ready to accept clients.

***\*\*For the remaining committee report updates, Judge Kristin Wade stated to please refer to the data in the meeting packet.\*\****

Judge Kristin Wade asked the committee if there were any other additional questions, comments, and announcements. Vickie Rice introduced the PDs new Engagement Supervisor, Kavina McLeod. She also reported that Kavina McLeod will be communicating with some members to schedule a conference call to discuss their services and how they can partner soon. Kavina McLeod introduced herself and shared her background with the committee.

#### **Announcements:**

- Alyssa Aldrich shared that their department has previously had challenges with the Sheriff's department and their mental health population. She thanked the Sheriff's department for assisting with one of their client's yesterday.
- Judge Kristin Wade thanked the Sheriff's department for their support and granting time off to her bailiff to attend the TASC Conference.
- Judge Kristin Wade stated that the next BHSC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 21, 2022, and to contact Kimberly Rawls to add items to the agenda.

#### **Adjournment:**

Judge Kristin Wade adjourned the meeting at 9:13 am. The next meeting is set for Thursday, July 21, 2022, 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.