



Palm Beach County
Board of County Commissioners



PBC BEHAVIORAL HEALTH, SUBSTANCE USE AND CO-OCCURRING DISORDERS - MEETING MINUTES

Date: 6/8/2023 | Time: 2:00pm

Members/Staff Present

Ariana Ciancio, John Makris, Jon Van Arnam, Sandy Sisson, Brent Schillinger, MD, Austin Wright, Lissa Franklin, Maureen Kielian, and Daniel Oria. **Staff:** Dr. James Green, Dr. Ellen Jones, Taruna Malhotra, John Hulick, Jill Singer, Helene Hvizd, and Yolanda Butler.

Members Absent

Ann Berner, Belma Andric, MD., Sharon Burns-Carter, William Freeman, Barbara Shafer, Rae Whitely, Natalie Kenton, Patrick McNamara and Charles Coyle.

Public Members Present

Heather Howard, Micah Robbins, Susan Foley, Sheila Gaines, Tremayne Gaines, Heidi Matheny, Frank Whiting, Josh Thrasher, Steve Farnsworth, Thomas DeBartolo and Tessa Moody.

Call to Order

Maureen Kielian called meeting to order at 2:06pm. Members and staff were introduced.

Agenda Approval

Motion to approve the agenda by Lissa Franklin. Second by John Hulick. Motion passed. No additions, deletions, substitutions.

Quorum

Yes

Regular Business

- A. **Adoption of Regular Committee Meeting Minutes (4/13/23)**
- B. **Southeast Florida Behavioral Health Network (SEFBHN) Presentation, Daniel Oria** – We are experts in behavioral health care, with years of experience. **Recent developments:** Expanding access to medication for opioid use disorder (methadone or suboxone). Buprenorphine is a medication, designed to treat a certain condition; it should not have a special name. It’s a life-saving medication, which decreases your chances of dying from an overdose by 50%. Even though 100,000 people die each year from drug overdose, there are still people who say, “You’re just replacing one drug with another.” We really need to address the stigma problem. People are still hesitant about these medications. Either you want to save lives or you don’t.

SEFBHN has served about 13,000 people so far this year. Last FY, 10,000 in Palm Beach County area only. Many of our services are not considered direct services such as, outreach work in the community

(homeless). Examples of direct service are Therapy, Counseling, Recovery Services, and Mental Health Services.

Twenty percent of our Mental Health Services are provided to the black and brown communities. People with mental health issues have a lack of trust in their service providers. This mistrust is due variables such as unfair treatment by previous or current mental health service providers/staff. As a result, trust is not where it should be.

Our Mobile Response Team (MRT) provide assessment of crisis situations, referrals and linkage to community resources, support during difficult times, and education about mental illness to those in need. Our services are free to people of all ages 24/7. The MRT can go to you wherever the crisis is taking place, such as your home, school, and job. The goal of our MRT is to prevent people from being Baker Acted. We have two agencies that offer MRT services in the Southeast Region.

1. South County Mental Health (SCMHC), Inc. – Covers all of Palm Beach County
2. New Horizons of the Treasure Coast (NHTC) – Covers St. Lucie, Indian River, Martin and Okeechobee counties.

Transportation is a problem because not everyone is eligible for the Transportation Disadvantage Program. Eligibility for this program is based on age, disability and income.

- C. **Master Plan/Outcomes Report, Heather Howard, FAU** – The QR code will be used as an evaluation tool. It should take 7-8 minutes to complete.

What are the four components of trauma-informed care?

1. Safety: Establish safety where ever you are by making sure common areas are welcoming.
2. Trust: After you establish safety, trust is next. Privacy should be respected, it is important.
3. Collaboration: All of us have to feel that we are in a safe space.
4. Empowerment: (My favorite) How does everyone collectively feel empowered to work?

One of my passions is creating collaborative framework and groups. My goal is to work collectively towards making a change.

- D. **Subcommittee Report, Jill Singer** – Thanked everyone who participated in the subcommittee meetings. The next one will be on July 20. Subcommittee members worked well together to fill in the organizations.

Other Business

- A. Staff Updates: John Hulick: On May 2, the BCC approved the full funding of the network of two (2) recovery community centers (RCC) in PBC. We are going from two (2) to four (4) with a countywide recovery community organization (RCO). This is a critical piece to the systems model.
- B. Member Updates on Non-Agenda Items: Maureen Kielian: Non-Profit and For Profit funding: We have to rethink behavioral health into For Profit.
- C. Public Comments: None

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Lissa Franklin. Second by John Hulick. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 4:01pm. Next Regular Meeting: Thursday, August 10, 2023 |Time: 2:00pm |Location: Mandala Healing Center, Community Room - 5408 East Avenue, West Palm Beach, FL. 33407