



## MINUTES OF THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH HOSPITAL ENGAGEMENT FORUM

Virtual attendance only

February 11, 2022  
10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

### 1. Call to Order

Sandra Grossman called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

### 2. Welcome and Introductions

The following were in attendance:

Amy Yutzy (CCHA), Billie Bemis (RMHP, RAE 1), Carmella Ybarra (Denver Health), Christen Rodenburg (UCHealth), Cristen Bates (HCPF), Eileen Barker (COA, RAE 3 & 5), Genevieve Fraser (HealthONE Behavioral Health & Wellness Center), Gina Magnan (Denver Health), Jen Hale-Coulson (NHP, RAE 2), Kelli Gill (CCHA, RAE 6 & 7), Kim Cassidy (CCHA, RAE 6 & 7), Lourdes Schlage (Denver Health Hospital), Matt Middendorf (Banner Health), Michelle Blady (CCHA), Michelle Gay (San Luis Valley Health), Mona Allen (HCI, RAE 4), Sandra Grossman (HCPF), Tayler Morrison (UCHealth), Tina McCrory (HCI, RAE 4), Tom Masterson (San Luis Valley Health), Valerie Baughman (Parkview Health System)

### 3. Update on Support for Step Down Services

Cristen Bates presented on safety net step down services. It was determined that “the middle is missing,” the need for services between acute care and outpatient limited. The focus is wanting to be on Residential Step Down and High Intensity Community services for the mental health gap in the continuum. The upcoming projects are focused on outpatient step down and residential step down. The residential step down recommendations are for more than 125 group home beds for clients coming out of the hospital or to avoid going in.

A discussion occurred.

- There was a question about the stakeholder engagement process for the care coordination efforts.
  - Camille Harding, with CDHS, has begun a policy care coordination group, user design/experience group and a health information technology group.



- Regarding the question about stakeholder engagement for in-home respite care, it's unknown what the stakeholder process will look like for this.
- For residential step down, RAE 4 commented that the shortage of group home beds has been a real problem for them.
- A position has been posted by HCPF to work on the ARPA project on Youth Step Down Alternative, both, residential and outpatient programs.
- The residential step down recommendation for more than 125 group home beds are only for adults. However, there are providers in the state under the Families First act and psychiatric residential treatment facilities that are being expanded that may be able to assist. CDHS has expanded the number of residential services for youth by QRTPs and QRTFs by 30 beds. This was done with emergency FEMA funding.

It was recommended for meeting attendees to review the Behavioral Health Transformational Task Force report:

[https://leg.colorado.gov/sites/default/files/images/bhttf\\_recommendations\\_report\\_final.pdf](https://leg.colorado.gov/sites/default/files/images/bhttf_recommendations_report_final.pdf)

#### 4. Wrap Up and Housekeeping

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, May 13, 2022.

Reasonable accommodations will be provided upon request for persons with disabilities. Please notify the Sandra Grossman at [sandra.grossman@state.co.us](mailto:sandra.grossman@state.co.us) or the 504/ADA Coordinator [hcpf504ada@state.co.us](mailto:hcpf504ada@state.co.us) at least one week prior to the meeting.

