



Behavioral Health and Integration Strategies PIAC October Meeting Minutes

Introductions:

Facilitators:

- Jeff Appleman: Dept. of Health Care Policy & Finance Dept. Liaison
- Daniel Darting: Signal Behavioral Health Network Co-Facilitator

Voting Members:

- Sue Williamson: Colorado Children's Health Care Access Program
- Amanda Jones: Center for Mental Health
- Dr. Vicky Allen-Sanchez: Colorado Springs FD
- Stephany Salazar-Rodriguez: Mile High Health Alliance
- Terri Hurst: Colorado Criminal Justice Reform Coalition
- Tammy Philips: Larimer County DHS
- Tom Keller: Member Experience Council
- Monique McCallum: Mother of Members (New Voting Member)

Other Attendees:

- Elizabeth Richards: Beacon Health Options
- Louisa Wren: Rocky Mt. Health Plans
- Joseph Anderson: COA (RAE 3 & 5)
- Cris Matoush: Rocky Mt. Health Plans
- Kim Fairley: CAHEC Regional Health Connector
- Sandra Grossman: Department of HCPF
- Clayton Cunningham: Community Reach Center
- Jenn Conrad: Signal Behavioral Health Network
- Terri Massingill: Peak View Behavioral Health
- Kristin Cowin: Imagine
- Katherine Hubert: ARC of Pueblo
- Alan Girard: Front Range Health Partners
- Susan Todd: STRIDE Community Health Center
- Marjorie Champenoy: RAE 1 RMHP
- Anne Jordan: Department of HCPF
- Kelly Bowman: RAE & Crisis ASO Region 4





- Kellen Roth: RAE 3 & 5 Colorado Access
- Mary Ellen Benson: Aspen Pointe
- Doug Muir: Centura Health
- Kailey Meardon: Southeast Health Group
- Benjamin Harris: Department of HCPF

House Keeping

Jeff welcomed the attendees to the meeting and reviewed the day's topics and objectives. Following roll call, Jeff and Daniel introduced the newest voting member, Monique McCollum. Monique is a community stakeholder who is the mother of two Medicaid members. She hopes to bring her experiences utilizing the system to the sub-committee and added that she is excited and optimistic about what we could accomplish. Daniel thanked Monique for joining the Voting-Membership of the sub-committee. Jeff also updated the group about the withdrawal of voting member, Heidi Haynes's (due to leaving the state) and stated that an offer has been made to her potential replacement and that we are waiting to hear back from the potential voting member.

Lastly, Jeff stated that the Department recently sent out an update stating that newly created services, such as tele-health services, that were created due to the current of Public Health Emergency related to the novel coronavirus would be extended until at least January 20, 2021. Daniel provided another important detail, that members cannot lose eligibility during this time, which is of the utmost importance at a time like this.

Behavioral Health Taskforce - Blueprint (Presenter Summer Gathercole)

DHS recently released their new Blueprint, created by the Behavioral Health Taskforce, which contained their suggested vision and actionable changes for Colorado's state-wide behavioral health continuum. Currently, the Behavioral Health Taskforce is creating a stakeholder engagement plan and a plan for implementing the blueprint. Summer added that their goal would be to develop a continuum of mental health services that would be equitable, effective and holistic while meeting the person where they are, at the right place and time. She added that they the Taskforce created several sub-committees to address certain populations and/or facets of the system. The taskforce held several public hearings to get public input. During those sessions, the number one issue was access and having appropriate services for the person (ex: not putting children in an adult system). The Taskforce also aims to address costs and funding associated with mental health treatment with the goal of having reasonably priced services and funding streams that allow for providers to be compensated. Additionally, they hope to address workforce issues among some services (ex: peer supports) and increase competencies where needed.

The taskforce hopes to continue to communicate with consumers of services and other stakeholders as they build the system. Furthermore, they hope to address care holistically, such as addressing social determinants of health, and address regional issues. Additionally, they will present an option to the





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Governor which would create an overarching state agency that will oversee and evaluate behavioral health across Colorado.

The Taskforce has also prioritized tele-health services, in large part due to the current Public Health state of emergency. When reaching out to providers and members, they received positive feedback on these services. The Taskforce hopes to make tele-health widely available but wants members to have in-person options as well. Additionally, they are looking into whether legislative changes will be needed, specifically related to the creation of a Behavioral Health Administration. Furthermore, the state contracted with Colorado Health Institute to better understand the existing funding streams and to better understand how to leverage funding in the future. The stakeholder advisory group including members, family of members, providers, etc.

The Behavioral Health Taskforce is also focused on marginalized populations and received feedback that they needed to better involve stakeholders, specifically related to the Intellectual or Developmental Disability (IDD) Community. Furthermore, Senate Bill 19-222 also identified other populations to address, specifically those encountering the criminal justice system. Daniel stated that our work, in this sub-committee, and the work completed by the Behavioral Health Taskforce has a significant amount of overlap. He added that we would be willing to help with ongoing work, if needed. Jeff thanked Summer for attending and stated that the PowerPoint she presented would be emailed later in the week; he then opened the floor to questions.

Following a question by an attendee, Summer stated that the Executive Meeting, to be held today, would contain most of the same information as the previous Town Hall. She added that the meeting would be recorded and that they would share the recording publicly. When asked about collaboration across the state Summer stated that the state is attempting streamline communications, and have compiled an extensive list of providers, organizations, individuals who use services, etc. that perform work related to mental health.

Crisis System - Blueprint (Presenter Jeff Appleman)

Jeff asked for feedback to the existing 4 recommendations they hope to make to PIAC. Amanda stated that she liked the existing recommendations but felt that sub-points could be created to provide more detail and clarity. Sue added that she agreed with the existing four points but felt that some would require more work than others; she asked how we will address who does what work. Daniel stated that he appreciated the question and that we will have to keep that in mind as we go on. Additionally, Sue stated that we should be specific on our goals when it comes to recommendations like “Member Communications”; should we create our own communications? Should we work with on-the-ground providers? Etc.

Jeff agreed that the current recommendations would be broad but that we could use that to leverage other committees/agencies that are doing similar work. Attendees stated that they would be open to creating smaller groups, within this sub-committee, to address the specifics of each of the recommendations. Amanda added that we should also make sure to have diverse group of opinions,





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across Colorado and across backgrounds. Participants volunteered to participate in smaller crisis system focused conversation(s). The group agreed to consider having this focused discussion as a substitute for a regularly scheduled meeting.

House Keeping

Jeff stated that the next meeting would be held November 4th and asked attendees to contact him with their questions.

