

Denton County Behavioral Health Leadership Team

March 23rd, 2017

Meeting Minutes

Appointees Present: Captain Douglas Lee, Chief Lee Howell, Chief Russ Kerbow, Commissioner Bobbie Mitchell, Craig Daugherty, Dr. Bill Giese, Dr. Derrell Bulls, Dr. Lisa Elliott, Dr. Matt Richardson, Dr. Roxanne Del-Rio, Dr. Timothy Harris, Elizabeth Ferring, Gary Seguin, Joe Mulroy, Juan Rodriguez, Judge Coby Waddill, Louise Baldwin, Melinda Galler

Ex officios present: Gary Henderson, Alex Reed

Appointees Absent: Bryan Langley, Cindy “Sanden” Daughtee, Councilman TJ Gilmore, Dr. Kathryn Stream, Dr. Monica Mendez-Grant, Dr. Nicki Roderman, Dr. Richard Valenta, Dr. Teresa McKinney, Gary Fullerton, Judge Barbara Gailey, Mayor Chris Watts, Monya Crow, Prudence Sanchez

Meeting called to order at 8:03 a.m.

Welcome & Introductions:

Joe Mulroy provided the welcome and recognized guests.

Consideration of January meeting minutes:

The January 19th, 2017 meeting minutes of the Denton County Behavioral Health Leadership Team were reviewed and approved.

Motion: Dr. Derrell Bulls

Second: Chief Russ Kerbow

Minutes approved as written.

Public Relations:

Chief Lee Howell provided overview of recent Speakers Bureau presentations, including presentations to Champions Rotary and Councilwoman Keely Briggs District 2 meeting. Phyllis Finley of Denton County MHMR co-presented with Chief Howell for the District 2 meeting. Chief Howell reported that the meeting was well attended with diverse information. Chief Howell highlighted the value of the clinical expertise coupled with law enforcement perspective. Mr. Mulroy urged additional districts to host similar informational meeting to generate awareness and combat stigma.

Chief Howell relayed a presentation was provided to Denton County Commissioners Court on Tuesday, March 7th surrounding the Veteran Community Navigator program of the DCBHLT. The DCBHLT 2016 Annual Report will be provided to Denton County Commissioners Court on Tuesday, April 25th.

Specialty Court Funding:

Mr. Joe Mulroy indicated an article in the Denton Record Chronical surrounding Denton County Specialty Courts generated recognition of the need for pilot funds to generate court metrics. Mr. Mulroy donated \$30,000 to be eligible for grant applications by Denton County Specialty Courts. Three applications were received for eligible funding – Drug Court, Family Drug Court, and Mental Health Treatment Court. Each of the courts applied for \$10,000 in funding. Veterans Court, Juvenile Mental Health Court, and DWI Court currently funded through varying funding streams.

Judge Coby Waddill indicated that the Specialty Court judges collaborated on the needs across the domains. Judge Waddill relayed that the applicants agreed to apply for even division of the funds across Drug Court, Family Drug Court, and Mental Health Treatment Court. Judge Waddill indicated that the Governor’s Grant opened for filing in February 2017; however, courts that did not receive funding in the previous two years are ineligible for application.

Attendees reviewed funding applications from the applying courts. UWDC to assist as backbone support in developing and tracking court metrics. Grant recipients will report quarterly on identified metrics to the DCBHLT.

The DCBHLT appointees indicated approval of funding awards in the amount of \$10,000 to Drug Court, Family Drug Court, and Mental Health Treatment Court.

Motion: Dr. Derrell Bulls

Second: Commissioner Bobbie Mitchell

Abstain: Judge Coby Waddill

Funding allocation in the amount of \$10,000 to each of the court applicants approved unanimously by attending appointees.

1115 Waiver & Psychiatric Triage

Pam Gutierrez of Denton County MHMR provided an overview of the services supported by the 1115 Waiver funding, including Integrated Care, Psychiatric Triage, and the Crisis Residential Unit. Pam relayed that there are multiple categories for reporting metrics. Currently, the 1115 Waiver funding is set to expire in December 2017; however, there is a potential for 21-month extension based on unknown metrics. Pam relayed that Denton County MHMR requested the Department of Health and Human Services fund Psychiatric Triage and Crisis Residential Unit, HHS refused.

Dr. Matt Richardson provided an overview of the 1115 Waiver funding, indicating the initial allocation of the 5-year funding awards for innovative projects.

Mr. Joe Mulroy indicated his concerns surrounding dependence on the federal government to address local needs. Pam relayed the cost diversion for local law enforcement and within the Denton County Jail. Pam indicated the annual budget for Psychiatric Triage is \$840,000 and Crisis Residential Unit is \$900,000. Dr. Richardson relayed that the cost for providing mental health care is expensive, with medication and cost of care being very expensive in the jail setting. Dr. Richardson indicated the cost for mental health medications within Denton County Jail could reach \$50,000 per month this year. The current Denton County Jail census is 1100, with 450 mental health evaluations completed in the previous two weeks.

Dr. Richardson expressed that the county jail is not the optimal environment for facilitating recovery. Dr. Richardson indicated that the challenge for funding services such as Psychiatric Triage lies in quantifying diversion. Mr. Mulroy reiterated the necessity for the local community to take ownership of behavioral health needs.

Pam Gutierrez to provide a single-page indicating individuals served through Psychiatric Triage, budget, and programmatic metrics for review by the DCBHLT.

Denton County Veterans Center:

Alex announced the Grand Opening of the Denton County Veterans Center is scheduled for April 19th, 2017 with Congressman Burgess provided keynote. Alex relayed that the initiative has been spearheaded by Bob and Terry Widmer. Terry indicated her desire that the Veterans Center be a model for behavioral health intervention in various demographic domains in Denton County. Mr. Mulroy communicated that the support of the Veterans Center by the Widmers continues the narrative surrounding community engagement in Denton County.

Backbone Support Update:

Gary Henderson updated the DCBHLT on expiring appointee terms in June 2016. Gary relayed to the DCBHLT appointees that each would receive a letter from Alex indicated expiring or continuation of term. Gary also highlighted the advocacy efforts of Denton County Days at the Capitol. Gary relayed that the legislature is aligning with the design of the community collaborative for funding opportunities, as collaboratives promote optimized resource leverage.

Gary indicated that a single-page overview of the TV+FA Phase IIB project was included in the agenda packet for review.

Workgroup Reports:

Workgroup updates and highlights of individual workgroups were provided by the Chair (or workgroup representative) of each group. A formal written report and workgroup strategic goal was provided in the DCBHLT agenda packet.

A list of workgroup chairs is as follows:

- Veterans: Colonel Chris Martin
- Consumer: Elizabeth Ferring
- Housing: Terry Widmer
- Jail Diversion: Interim Dr. Teresa McKinney
- Mental Health Court: Tami Russell
- Child & Family Systems: Dr. Lisa Elliott and Laura Prillwitz, Co-chairs

Colonel Chris Martin provided an overview of the Veterans Workgroup, with emphasis on the 2017 PIT results surrounding Veteran homelessness. Chris relayed 13 Veterans reported as experiencing homelessness in the 2017 PIT. Chris relayed that the next steps for the Veterans Workgroup include

exploring physical therapy for wounded Veterans, expansion of VA Mental Health services, and generating a housing crisis response system to reach functional zero for Veteran homelessness.

Chris indicated that 5 of the 140 Veterans in his son's company attempted suicide. Dr. Matt Richardson indicated 87 individuals died by suicide in Denton County in 2016. Dr. Richardson stated Veteran status is not identified upon suicide response; however, estimates indicated 5 -10 of the 87 deaths by suicide were Veterans.

Dr. Lisa Elliott and Laura Prillwitz announced the Child and Family Systems Workgroup will host a Flight to Freedom – Children's Mental Health Awareness Art Exhibit on May 6th from 11AM to 2PM at the Denton Public Safety Training Center. This event will be hosted in partnership with the WATCH Coalition. The workgroup in collaboration with Denton County MHMR and the WATCH Coalition is also organizing proclamations throughout Denton County for Children's Mental Health Awareness Day.

Public Comments:

Judge Dave Jahn indicated that a Mental Health First Aid training will be hosted on April 24th at Denton County Probate Court. Registration remains open for individuals interested in attending.

Gary Henderson communicated an urge to local non-profit board members to recognize the impact of less funds available through federal and state level. Gary relayed the necessity for non-profit organizations to begin assessing the programmatic adjustments necessary for optimal functioning and service delivery.

New Business:

Mr. Mulroy closed the meeting by recognizing the prioritization of mental health throughout the county, indicated that the Denton Chamber of Commerce adopted mental health as a priority area for advocacy.

The meeting adjourned by consent at 9:24 a.m.

**Next Meeting: May 18, 2017 @ 8:00 a.m.
United Way of Denton County**

Secretary

Date