

Behavioral Health Unit Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

July 24th, 2019

Committee Members

Lt. Casey Hettman PPB BHU; ***Ofc. Jim Stegemeyer** PPB CIT; **Emily Rochon**, PPB SCT; ***Beth Epps**, Cascadia; **Capt. Jarmer** Multnomah County Sherriff's Office; ***Cissie Bollinger**, Oregon Health Authority (OHA); **Melanie Payne**, Bureau Of Emergency Communications (BOEC), **Janie Gullickson**, Mental Health & Addiction Association of Oregon (MHAAO); **Leticia Sainz**, Multnomah County Mental Health & Addiction Services; **LaKeesha Dumas**, Office of Consumer Engagement-Multnomah County Mental Health & Addictions Services Division; **Tim Case**, AMR; **Juliana Wallace**, Unity; ***Myrlaviani Perez-Rivier**, POC Led Cross Disability Coalition; **Sgt. Benson Weinberger**, PPB BHU; ***Sgt. Stephen Mirau**, PPB BHU

[* Indicates Committee Member was absent]

Report & Minutes

June minutes – Correct Sgt. Weinberger's & Leticia Sainz attendance (they were both absent) and minor typographical errors highlighted. Melanie Payne moves to accept the minutes with corrections. Juliana Wallace seconded and Leticia Sainz abstained. **M/S/P**

June Report – Emily Rochon moved to accept the report and Melanie Payne seconded. Leticia Sainz abstained. **M/S/P**

Guests:

Neal Rotman - Multnomah County Behavioral Health Resource Center,

Capt. Reardon & Laura Maelstrom – Multnomah County Sheriff's Office – Jail Navigator /Peer Program

Brody Sargent - PPB Equity & Diversity Plan

Notes: BHU is moving from one command structure to another within the Bureau. The newly created Community Services Division will now house the Behavioral Health Unit. The new division is overseen by a Captain who reports directly to the Chief's Office. There should be no difference in the day-to-day operations of BHU. Chuck Lovell is currently fulfilling the Captain role in an acting capacity.

Leticia Sainz was appointed Interim Deputy Director of Multnomah County's Mental Health and Addiction Services. She will continue to represent her agency at the BHUAC.

Multnomah County Behavioral Health Resource Center

Neal Rotman provided an update on the Behavioral Health Resource Center that Multnomah County has proposed. The center will seek to serve a number of varied populations throughout the facility. The first two floors will provide mailboxes, laundry, showers and other basic needs and will be led and managed mainly by peers. Meetings with several different peer groups in the area have been convened, to solicit input. If the center is successful downtown, there may be a hope to replicate the idea elsewhere in the City.

Behavioral Health Unit Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

July 24th, 2019

Ideally, the center will receive referrals for those individuals who aren't going to be admitted into the hospital, but need help. Additionally, the plan is to allow for drop-offs by police, for occasions when a transport to jail or the hospital are not appropriate. The intention is to not have police within the building. Staff will coordinate with the police to get someone to the door or into the building. They own the parking lot next door and are creating a spot in that area for police drop off.

The third floor has 40 proposed beds that are dedicated for mental health consumers. The focus will be on those individuals who are coming out of the ED or Jail who have stabilized but have nowhere to go to sustain their stabilization. The individuals will access resources from downstairs, and other shelters, PPB, jail and hospitals. Most people will stay between 2-3 days but if they need to stay longer, they may be able to stay up to 30. The center will try to move individuals over to a different shelter when they stabilize and are ready.

The center's 4th floor will function more like a transitional housing program. Thirty to ninety days is what they think the average stay will be. The transitional housing will be more engaged in services and help those who are ready to move forward with their transition.

Not all floors will be peer-run, the first floor will be low barrier resource center and the shelter and supportive housing will be more clinical. It's still up for debate how deep the peers are engaged.

A committee member expressed a hope that there is a way to support the peers as they are working. Planners are looking at keeping the facility secure and safe and are working closely with peers to make sure they are involved in the discussions. There is an understanding that if the facility is not maintained as a safe environment then it won't be utilized by those who need it.

Jail Navigation /Peer Program at the Sheriff's office

Capt. Reardon & Laura Maelstrom presented on a newer initiative taking place within the Multnomah County Detention Center jail. The program launched recently and is geared to divert those that are going to be released from jail to meet with a peer and divert/offer support to appropriate resources.

A "Navigator" meets with individuals prior to being released from Jail. A number of questions are asked of the individual, and are aimed to see what referrals may be appropriate. Additionally connections are attempted with a peer mentor or specialist. Peers engage in a number of ways and do a number of things, including: offer recovery support, system navigation, sharing a meal and assistance in getting individuals connected to resources. If/when the individual engages with the peer, the MCDC Navigator works together with them and the DA to see if criminal charges (non-person misdemeanors mostly) can be dropped.

Behavioral Health Unit Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

July 24th, 2019

The partnership with the DA to get charges dropped if individuals are engaging in services avoid FTA's and low level warrants is new. They are looking for grants to add peers to the program and expand the hours.

The jail has also reached out to Columbia Sportswear to donate backpacks to fill with items such as hygiene kits and clothes, and they will donate them to those being released who have connected with a peer. They are hoping to have the backpacks with some kind of identifier (such as a neon stripe) for the Police to know where they came from so they can continue engagement.

Currently, the program operates 7:00am – 3:00pm. Having peers available to help guide individuals to court has been helpful.

The program is working with the DA's office to expand what charges they may be willing to dismiss. They are currently working closely with the DA on case by case basis. It depends on if the person is connected and engaging. They are looking at ways to pull data to help tell them what's working.

Equity and Diversity Office

Brody Sargent provided a 6-month update regarding the Police Bureau's Equity and Diversity Plan.

August 28th, 2019 meeting has been cancelled due to trainings/planned absences.

The next meeting will be on September 25th, 2019.

2-4 PM on the 11th floor of the Justice Center