

Brown County Mental Health Subcommittee

Meeting Minutes

5pm, October 26, 2023

Present: Honorable Donald Zuidmulder, Guy Zima, Eric Hoyer, Ph.D., Eric Drzewiecki, Officer Sheila Carlson

Absent Excused: Randy Schultz

Absent: Rev. Steve Fewell

Agenda approved by unanimous consent, no request for public comment.

Motion to approve prior minutes by Zuidmulder, Second Hoyer, unanimous approval.

1) Set date/time/location of next meeting and dates/times locations for future meetings:

By unanimous consent, meetings will be held at the same location, with the conference room preferred when possible. Meetings will be at 5pm on the 4th Thursday of each month going forward, with November being set for the 30th due to Thanksgiving, and no meeting in December due to the Christmas/holiday season.

2) Discussion on budget and information provided by County Board

The Subcommittee noted that the budget of HHS claims a goal of not relying on state facilities. We wish to review this specific goal compared to recent utilization to assess program effectiveness to ensure progress is being made.

The Subcommittee requests (Motion Zima, Second Drzewiecki, unanimous approval) that the chair of HHS designate a relevant staff member of Brown County Mental Health be present at all future subcommittee meetings to facilitate adequate review of practices.

The Subcommittee requests (under the same above motion) that we be provided with a monthly report of county EM1 data, to assess utilization of local facilities versus non-local.

At future meetings, the Subcommittee will look to collaborate with Brown County Mental Health Staff regarding obtaining and reviewing the answers to the following questions as they are not inherently clear through the budget information provided to the Subcommittee:

- A) List (and duration) of vacancies related to the HHS/mental health staff
- B) What are the current services/programs/follow-up programs in place, and are they seen as effective?
- C) Where are the perceived shortages in the above-mentioned services/programs/follow-up programs?
- D) What kind of mental health outreach are we doing, and what is the acceptance rate/response rate?

E) What sort of grant money are we getting for mental health, and how is it presently allocated?

The Subcommittee hopes to review the above 5 questions in person with designated staff at the next meeting.

3) Discussion on mental health best practices information provided by Officer Sheila Carlson

Noted that based on EM1 data in the city, that much of the EM1 reductions have been related to police policy, not any county directives.

Noted a general observation that there is a high frequency of EM1 referrals to Winnebago facility which are subsequently released within 24 hours. Noted these referrals are costly to Brown County.

- General observations regarding Winnebago referrals -
 - A) Nonresidents of Brown County
 - B) Anyone under the age of 18
 - C) Anyone who is uninsured
 - D) Anyone who is sufficiently non-compliance or has a history of significant non-compliance

Noted based on data CTC crisis line (including overnight) appears to pay approximately \$20/hour – future review will be conducted on turnover in this role as well as if there are needs related to intake calibration and standardized training.

Noted the absence/omission of a general “restoration to pre-mental health event state of function” type of goal outlined in Brown County Mental Health.

Discussion on the need to have improved best practices that align with both our values as a community as well as driving consistent intake procedures that do not create potential “wrongful detention” exposure.

Discussion was initiated on the need to work to align intake practices to prevent unnecessary and expensive referrals to Winnebago when local services can suffice.

Additional questions to be referred to the HHS Chair with request they are submitted to the proper channels in CTC:

- 1) Is there a standardized training in order to produce consistent crisis decisions?
- 2) Is there a plan to address turnover of CTC staff, especially (but not exclusively) phone staff?
- 3) What are the present mobile services that are provided?
- 4) What is your mobilization number?
- 5) What does that number represent?

Future meetings will involve leveraging this information along with public comment (which will be actively solicited by members of the subcommittee) to develop a series of recommendations for the standing committee.

Motion to adjourn until 11/30/2023 by Hoyer, second by Carlson, unanimous consent.