

MINUTES

Monday, December 14, 2020 12:10 P.M.

Palm Beach County School & Community Safety Initiative Behavioral Health Track

Online via Zoom



Members Present:

Chairman Judge James Martz, Circuit Court Judge

Dr. Angela Bess, Director of Educational Alternatives, Palm Beach County School District

Chief Sean Brammer, LEPC Chairman, FAU Police Department

June Eassa, Ed.S., Assistant Superintendent of Student Wellness, Palm Beach County School District

Megan Eaton, Circuit 15 Juvenile Justice Advisory Board Co-Chair and Public Defender's Office

Tammy Fields, Director, Palm Beach County Youth Services Department

Lt. Randy Foley, Behavioral Services Division, PBC Sheriff's Office

Nicole Gasparri, CGFO, Emergency Manager/Organizational Program Manager, City of Boca Raton, City Managers Department

Barbara Gerlock, Ph.D., Organizational Development Consultant

Deputy Chief Robin Griffin-Kitzerow, Florida Atlantic University Police Department

Sharon L'Herrou, President/CEO, 211 Palm Beach/Treasure Coast

Beau Lynch, Behavioral Health Executive Director, JFK Medical Center North Campus

Danielle Ouellette, LCSW, Behavioral Services Division, PBC Sheriff's Office

Dr. Gena Rowlands, Senior Planner, PBC Sheriff's Office

Robin Russo, Director of Student Well Being, Palm Beach State College

Judge Rosemarie Scher, 15th Judicial Circuit

Jill Sorensen, Director of Children's System of Care, Southeast Florida Behavioral Health Network

Sara Talley, Special Agent, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Sharon Tarlow, Education Coordinator, JFK Medical Center North Campus

Magistrate Maxine Williams, 15th Judicial Circuit

Craig Williams, State Attorney's Office 15th Judicial Circuit

Lisa Williams-Taylor, Ph.D., CEO, Children's Services Council

Lauren Zuchman, LCSW, Executive Director, BeWellPBC

Guests Present:

Cassandra Atkin-Plunk, Ph.D., Associate Director and Associate Professor, Florida Atlantic University

Vaughn Crichlow, Ph.D., Associate Dean and Associate Professor, Florida Atlantic University

Karyn Green, South County Mental Health Center

Dr. Mary Claire Mucenic, Director of Behavioral and Mental Health

CJC Staff Present:

Regenia Herring, Executive Director

Katherine Shover, Senior Criminal Justice Analyst

- I. Welcome and Opening Comments – Chairman Martz
 - a. He asked that everyone sign in by listing their name/organization in the chat box and to mute their mics. He also reported that after reviewing the Grand Jury report that he continues to see that the committee is on the right track.
- II. Introductions were made.
- III. A motion was made to approve the agenda by Tammy Fields, a second by Jill Sorensen, and unanimously approved by the membership.
- IV. Awareness Campaign Update: Chairman Martz introduced and welcomed Nicole Gasparri, CGFO, Emergency Manager/Organizational Program Manager, City of Boca Raton, City Managers Department to the group. He feels that her talents and expertise will be well used by the group. Specifically she has been asked to help with the awareness campaign. Ms. Gasparri said that it was an honor and privilege to be part of the group.
- V. House Bill 945: Jill Sorensen, Director of Children's System of Care, Southeast Florida Behavioral Health Network provided the update about House Bill 945. SEFBHN is one of the seven managing entities for behavioral health services throughout the state. They contract directly with the Department of Children and Families and have the public funding for the uninsured for behavioral health services. SEFBHN manages the network of providers and the quality of services. House Bill 945 (effective July 1, 2020) has three main sections 1) mobile response teams, 2) care coordination framework and 3) coordinated system of care planning process. In regards to Mobile Response Teams (MRTs), they have contracted with MRTs for quite a while. The MRT in Palm Beach County is run by South County Mental Health Center. When new framework was established they re-procured their teams with some of the new requirements. Specifics were added around child welfare for foster parent training, as well as the responsibility for MRTs to provide assessment and de-escalation techniques to help preserve child placement stabilization efforts. In regards to

the care coordination framework, the Department of Children and Families (DCF) and the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) began identifying youth age 25 and under who are the highest users of crisis stabilization services. The coordinated system of care planning is a long term project within the bill that must include and integrate all services "funded by the state's child-serving systems." Ms. Sorensen reviewed the timeline for Phase I and II Planning and the Project Structure for House Bill 945. They are looking for feedback to determine system problems and gaps, as well as potential solutions from the survey. There was a discussion about how the committee could assist with the project. Dr. Mary Claire Mucenic also mentioned that they have been working on a statewide initiative of drafting guidelines for MRTs. They would like to roll-out uniform best practices with a strong emphasis on de-escalation strategies so that they may reduce Baker Acts.

- VI. Non-traditional Supports: Lauren Zuchman, LCSW, Executive Director, BeWell PBC mentioned that there are many paths of taking care of your behavioral health and wellness. Palm Beach County is very fortunate to be rich in resources from deep end services to the beginning spectrum. She mentioned that there are 10 Bridges sites in the community where families can go and participate in all kinds of support services that aren't typical clinical care. The Healthier Together communities are elevating grassroots initiatives that can support mental health. She also discussed mini-grants that are listed on the Healthier Together and BeWell sites. There was a discussion about marketing. Chairman Martz mentioned that they are hoping that the Aware and Care site will help guide people to these types of services. Sharon L'Herrou added that they try to encourage people to call 211 before they reach the crisis point. Tammy Fields also mentioned that Youth Services doesn't require a diagnosis code and they can reach those that may not be in need of deep end services.
- VII. Caring First Update: Dr. Mary Claire Mucenic, Director of Behavioral, Palm Beach County School District provided an overview of the Caring First site. She noted that it is both an application and a website. The site is intended to remove barriers from students and families that are in need of services within the school system or through behavioral health agency partners. There are fourteen files with contact information at the school and district level that are broken down in a user friendly format for topics such as bullying prevention, mental health & wellness, etc. The application portion of the site has a logging system for all of their providers and the type of services they provide for their students. Dr. Mucenic reviewed the following data snapshot. She noted that they are working on an advanced search feature. They also need an on the spot reporting feature for users. Currently the data is provided by the IT Department. In addition, an electronic referral feature should be turned on in January. The receiving party will receive notifications that the child has been referred. They will also be able to determine when services have been provided.

Caring First Data Snapshot as of mid-November 2020:

- 31,128 individual service logs have been submitted
- 18,499 were entered by School Behavioral Health Professionals
- 10,987 were entered by Co-located Mental Health Professionals

- 1,634 were entered by Agencies

Co-located Mental Health Professionals data YTD:

- Students receiving individual counseling = 1,073
- Time spent in school meetings = 729 hours
- Time spent in Parent Intakes = 1,430 hours
- Individual Counseling Sessions = 1,689 sessions
- Crisis Response = 354 events

VIII. Business

- a. Feedback and thoughts from members - Chairman Martz suggested that we have a working day where each of the members present information about their agency. Then a working group could be used to determine how members can enhance the effectiveness of each agency. Director Herring agreed that it would be beneficial for the group.
- b. Third Interim Grand Jury Report – Chairman Martz briefly reviewed portions of the report. He noted the value of the committee in sharing resources and thanked members for their continued participation.
- c. Meeting Schedule 2021 – meetings will continue via Zoom until further notice.

IX. Attachments

- a. Third Interim Grand Jury Report and Article
- b. House Bill 945 Presentation
- c. Draft Meeting Schedule 2021

X. Next Meeting Date – January 11, 2021

XI. Adjourn