

Utah Behavioral Health Planning and Advisory Council

Approved Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 7, 2020 12:00 p.m.

Zoom Virtual Meeting

Council Members Present: Lori Cerar, Dave Wilde, Mary Jo McMillen, Javier Alegre, Andrew Riggle, Cathy Davis, Rob Wesemann, Jane Lepisto, Jason Jacobs, James Park, Jeanine Park, Sigrid Nolte, Julia Martinez, Lisa Hancock, Terry Harrison, Ryan Hunsaker, Dan Braun, Sarah Miles

DSAMH Staff Present: Heidi Peterson, Ming Wang, Heather Rydalch, LeAnne Huff, Kimberly Myers, Pam Bennett

Others Present: Myra Butler, Karla Arroyo, Athena Schwartz, Monica Scott, Martha Mendes, Rachel Bawden, Colin Dively, Susi Felch-Malohifoou, Kyli Rodriguez-Cayro

Council Members Excused: Whitney Geertsen

Welcome & Introductions

Nettie Byrne began the meeting at 12 P.M. Introductions were made.

Announcements

Javier Alegre: The Cultural Integration Committee has been renamed Racial & Ethnic Equity and Integration Committee (REEIC). Its mission and purposes were read.

Mission:

REEIC's mission is to advocate for equitable, accessible, and quality culturally- and linguistically-appropriate services for racial & ethnic minorities in Utah. We strive to increase racial & ethnic minority representation in influential spaces that would impact systemic change and reduce health disparities.

Vision:

REEIC's vision is to uplift the values of quality services, equitable access, and diversity in a multicultural society. We envision integrated prevention, treatment, and recovery support services of the highest quality and accessibility for racial and ethnic minorities. We envision meaningful collaborations between the Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health, providers, peers, allies, and the community that would bring about dignity and humanity to racial/ethnic minorities (individuals, families, and communities) struggling with mental health and substance use disorders across Utah.

Ming Wang

Ming spoke to the Council about the Transition Age Youth (TAY) needs assessment her program is working on in collaboration with the division. The research will have a focus on four subgroups; Ethnicity, LGBTQ+, Disabilities, and Developmental Disabilities & Mental Health. Ming will keep the Council informed with any updates to the process.

Medicaid

It was proposed that UBHPAC write a letter to Medicaid concerning telehealth restrictions and expanded services. As part of this, billable telehealth services were discussed.

- Could consent forms be signed to provide connection services like Skype, Facetime, etc.?
- Telehealth is approved by Medicaid, could other services be (Skype, Facetime, phone calls, etc) be approved?
- HIPAA compliance for telehealth services
- What we can bill for is often decided on a state level, not national.
- Maybe the family should be able to make the decision based on what works best for them
- It was agreed upon that a smaller group would get together to draft a letter to Medicaid

Break

Emergency COVID Funding

Emergency COVID funding has been allocated to help in the following areas: Crisis Line upgrades, a statewide capacity for a Warm Line, an Emotional Relief Line targeted towards healthcare workers, MCOT technology for telehealth, and unfunded/underfunded services through: Bridge Program, Receiving Center, Bereavement Counselor, 211-targeted referrals.

Disaster counselor funding provided for four teams:

Weber/Davis

Salt Lake/Summit

Utah County

Rural/Tribal

Doug Thomas

State budget has been affected by COVID-19. State legislature asked for 2, 5, and 10 percent budget cut scenarios. Trying to protect funding already in the system. Will keep UBHPAC updated on budget cuts, funding, etc.

Ordered PPE (masks) to help providers care for those struggling with mental health challenges, will be distributed to providers.

Freed up funding to local providers to help provide equipment to make telehealth possible.

Will do research into getting masks for outreach companies working with vulnerable populations.

Meeting adjourned at 2:30 PM. Next virtual meeting: June 4th, 12:00 PM