

AHHA Behavioral Health Committee Notes

February 22, 2023

10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Attendees:

Bartlett Regional Hospital	Tracey Dompeling
Central Peninsula	Kristie Sellers
Providence Valdez	Lynley Steele Miller
State of Alaska, DBH	Farina Brown
API	Scott York
YKHC	Mark Overton
AK BH Services	Jim Myers
North Star	Patrick Wilder
Samuel Simmonds/Arctic Slope	Benjamin Sterrett
SEARHC Mt. Edgecumbe	Jennifer Barton
State of AK DFCS	Clinton Lasley, Makayla Viray
AHHA Staff	Elizabeth, Debbie, Lynn, Jeannie

Agenda Item	Highlights of Discussion	Action/Follow-up
Introductions/Agenda additions/opening remarks	Hope Allison wasn't available for the meeting so Elizabeth Kink, AHHA filled in as chair.	
RECORDING LINK for meeting	https://ashnha.zoom.us/rec/share/ljMfldL32y83Wi-THlaFclrec9VQepZbzf0PjgXM55pKVtQ_Ob_KZI8ijGmLcq7.597Spvyb3Xz0wL6p Passcode: SAT3?hX6	
Presentation Clinton Lasley, DFCS – Complex Care Initiative	<p>Division of Juvenile Justice, Pioneer Home all part of DFCS. What he is seeing is increasing escalation of youth and adults languishing in ER/hospital can't find placements in a timely manner. One solution DFCS is working on is building out a complex care unit. Currently one staff – Makayla Viray, and will build out team over the coming year. In 2020 started looking at people on title 47 (involuntary commitment) – if had a mental health crisis and land in ER or not getting care. Track all the orders, works closely with hospitals across the state etc. Great improvement of people getting appropriate care. Go to API, Bartlett (DET services) Fairbanks and North Star (youth).</p> <p>Provide resources and help when everything else has been done. Trying to find the gaps and fix them. Trying to create a data system and keep track of it. Will take some time but are seeing the beginning stages of this.</p> <p>Question: How does this differ from the current tracking efforts of the commissioner's office? They have a title 47 coordinator that works with us to place hard-to-place clients and tracks the length of time patients wait for care. Oftentimes it is a substantial data burden effort for us</p>	<p>Let Makayla know if you are having trouble placing people etc. Her email is Makayla.viray@alaska.gov</p>

	<p>Answer: The Title 47 Coordinator is also a part of our team. She does an amazing job of tracking those individuals. We are getting individuals who do not have a Title 47 and agencies are having a difficult time finding placement. We are working with her and with the other agencies that are coming in, to track all of these individuals (that is the hope), so then we can work on identifying those gaps.</p> <p>Only 10 Title 47 beds for youth. Trying to bridge those on title 47 and then find those that don't meet the title 47 (involuntary) and still can't find placement for them.</p> <p>Optum can provide some support but can't support out of state. Farina wants to know where Optum is assisting Central Pen - if none of the programs can take a youth, and then Optum helps get a third party to work with them to get placement. Farina said she would help her get in touch since Optum can help in these situations. It is disconnected from the AK process. Optum has no role in this process in Alaska. If waiting more than 2-3 weeks, contact the Division to create support for the hospital with those out of state contracts.</p> <p>Complex Care Program – Several processes in place, this program will support hospitals navigate where the systems come together. Give us more bandwidth to dig deeper into some of these long-standing issues. Working on the bigger systems piece. In the early stages and they do understand the challenges across the state. This is a complex system and trying to help adults and youth and State of AK needs to be better partners have the support in place to help.</p>	
Workforce Initiatives	<p>https://www.alaskahha.org/facility-initiatives - the new The Alaska Hospital and Healthcare Association (AHHA) has received contract funding from the State of Alaska Department of Health focused on Healthcare Workforce Development. AHHA hopes some facilities can use this initiative for BH needs.</p>	<p>Questions on the workforce initiatives - mhamburger@alaskahha.org</p>
API Update	<p>Back at full capacity – (raised to 80) though probably won't get all the way up to 80. Yesterday the census was 75. No limitation due to workforce limiting the beds available.</p>	
New website	<p>New updated website for BH Committee - https://www.alaskahha.org/behavioral-health and the password is BH-AHHA</p>	<p>AHHA to add contact info shared on the page</p>
Roundtable Discussion	<p>API – 33% forensic is a small portion, numbers are going up and resources in the community are getting less and waitlist and length of stay go up. These are big factors - take a look of length of stays and see what the barriers are for these length of stays. Title 12 and role over to title 47 and they take up a lot of beds. Someone has been then for 2800 day</p>	

	<p>mark. Many there over a year. Looking at conditional discharges for those doing well while there, complying with medication and doing their treatment needs. If they don't follow treatment plan they immediately can come back to API. Safety net. Way to reintegrate people back into the community and bring beds back to the community.</p> <p>Bartlett – increase with aggressive individuals, only in ER but not once they got to BH unit. Gives hope that the crisis now model can really help rather than coming through ER. The different setting is huge and good for the staff to see as well. Help the MH unit (running it only 50%).</p> <p>Workforce – first time BH technicians etc. In general have entry level staff that might not have as much experience in behavioral health. New to mental health, interested and engaged but inexperienced.</p> <p>SEARHC - PSA – patient safety assistants trained and trying to not use clinical nursing staff to be sitters. Huge increase in pediatrics length of stays (had one youth for 2 months) Increase in BH and length of stays. Have shared rooms so have to block a room if have a youth.</p> <p>AK Behavioral Health Services – use peer support specialists in residential facilities. Facilities in Anchorage, Fairbanks</p> <p>Central Pen – Seeing an increase of kids that went to homeschool when COVID started and are now 2 years behind in school, lots of on-line bullying, experiences lots of unique problems with these youth. Fallout from COVID – that age 14-15 year olds hopeless and never went back to school.</p>	<p>jmyers@akbh.org – Jim Myers if people want to get referred to their program</p>
<p>Information Updates</p>	<p>The AHHA Adolescent Behavioral Health Workgroup finished their report :Child and Adolescent Behavioral Healthcare Improvement Project 2022 and it can be found at. https://www.alaskahha.org/behavioral-health</p> <p>AK BH Webinar Series – will be starting in March. It's a lunchtime series and everyone will be getting an invite.</p>	
<p>Next BH Committee Meeting</p>	<p>Tentative date is April 27, invite coming soon.</p>	