

**EMERGENCY SERVICES LEVEL OF CARE
AND
EMERGENCY SERVICES COORDINATING COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

February 5, 2018

Present:

Greg Bernt, Blue Valley Behavioral Health
Scott Etherton, Mental Health Crisis Center
Julie Fisher-Erickson, Lutheran Family Services
Kathy Foster, NE Dept. of Correctional Services
Jennifer Jennings, Lincoln Regional Center
Shayla Hartmann, CenterPointe
Tim Kennett, Lincoln Police Department
Laura Kersten, St. Monica's
Ben Kroeze, DHHS – Adult Protective Services

Stephanie McLeese, CenterPointe
Rebecca Meinders, Lancaster Co. Public Defender
Sandra Miller, Veteran's Administration
Shay Piel, Division of Parole
Adam Proctor, United Health Care
Tesia Risk, United Health Care, My Connections
Kristin Nelson, Region V Systems
Marti Rabe, Region V Systems

1. WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

- Introductions were made.

2. SYSTEM ISSUES / UPDATES: Nelson provided the following updates:

- The 9th annual BETA (Behavioral Health Threat Assessment) training was held last week with 55 officers in attendance. BETA provides an opportunity for law enforcement to learn more about mental illness. Highlights included consumer stories of recovery as well as an officer sharing her journey with PTSD.
- The Crisis Center experienced some of its busiest months in September and October. During that time one individual was taken by ambulance to Mary Lanning. Currently the MHCC is not full and consumers are getting in as needed.
- Repeat admissions are being given attention. These individuals go through the emergency system over and over and fail at all levels of care. Nelson shared a success story regarding a particular client who had been using the ER system frequently. The unique solution for this client was finding an adult family home. This client is also encouraged to go to the hospital as needed, but is not using law enforcement. A complicating factor for some of the repeat users is co-existing developmental delays and efforts to collaborate with the DD sector are being explored.
- Meinders reported that the Public Attorney's office is supporting proposed legislation that would allow restoration of competency evaluations to take place on an outpatient basis. Currently those evaluations are required to take place at Lincoln Regional Center and 17 beds are being used for consumers for that purpose at this time. Individuals who are court ordered for competency restoration evaluations take priority over mental health board committed individuals.
- Mental health investigations, i.e. "well checks" are up significantly with 3,100 calls being received. EPCs are not up proportionately which speaks well to the various diversion programs that may intervene to prevent an EPC.
- Nelson briefly discussed LPD's flagging program. Individuals who agree to do so have their files "flagged." If an officer encounters an individual who appears to be having a mental health crisis, and the consumer is flagged, law enforcement has contact information regarding who to call. Having a case manager or other individual available can avert an EPC and lead to a much better outcome for the consumer as well. Nelson will provide contact information and procedures for getting a consumer flagged.

3. SPECIFIC CASE DISCUSSION

- High Utilizers: Nelson commented that officers at BETA identified a number of individuals with frequent law enforcement contact who were not known to Region V's ER system.

4. BED / CAPACITY – AGENCY UPDATES

- Blue Valley Behavioral Health: Rural CS full with a wait list; openings at the Lincoln office; MM and OP services – wait approximately 2 weeks
- Bridge BH: Tammy Stevenson is the new Executive Director for The Bridge. Tegeler is retiring and Stevenson starts this week
- CenterPointe: PIER – 2/3 openings with referrals being reviewed; adult res 2/3 week wait; Touchstone 4-6 week wait; Community Transitions 1 female opening with a three-month wait for males. Hartmann discussed CenterPointe's recent transition to a full walk-in-model for case management, therapy, or someone to talk to, which has led to an increase in new clients and a higher percentage of individuals returning sooner for services. Walk-in appointments are available on Mondays and Wednesday for MM as well, with scheduled appointments also available.
- Mental Health Crisis Center: The first six months of the current fiscal year have been busy with 374 admissions compared to 314 for the previous six months. Admissions are rising following a downtick that began before Christmas.
- Lincoln Regional Center (LRC): LRC will begin sending a number of individuals who are aging and/or medically fragile to Norfolk Regional Center. Ten individuals have been identified to date with two being moved per week. LRC has identified a new medical director who should start sometime in March. Mark LaBouchardiere is the Facilities Director and began in that role in December. LRC is fully staffed for social workers.
- Lutheran Family Services: OP MH, MM and CS approximately 2/3 week wait; a third IOP group has started so there are now two evening groups.
- St. Monica's: openings in IOP, CS and TC; 3 week wait for STR; PMC and OP about 2 months
- Kroeze shared concerns regarding a discharge from Corrections. A case manager picked this client up without a clear discharge plan. Concerns for the safety of the case manager were noted. Nelson commented that she was surprised to hear that and usually there is better communication in place regarding discharges.
- Corrections: full; down a social worker position here and in Omaha

5. OTHER DISCUSSION / BUSINESS

- Region V is offering Ethics Training May 7 with Kate Speck as the presenter.
- Two legislative bills are under consideration which may have an impact on the emergency system. Besides the restoration of competency bill discussed earlier, there is also a bill to allow certain mental health professionals to EPC an individual. Concerns about capacity were noted due to an anticipated increase in commitments if the bill passes.

6. NEXT MEETING DATES

- The next combined meeting of the Emergency Services Level of Care and the Emergency Services Coordinating Committee will be April 2, 2018, beginning at **9:00 a.m.** at Region V Systems.