

Region V Systems

Promoting Comprehensive Partnerships in Behavioral Health

Region V Level of Care Meeting

April 15, 2019

1:30 p.m.

1645 'N' Street

Lincoln, NE

Present: Julie Fisher-Erickson, Lutheran Family Services; Shala Hartmann, CenterPointe, Jane Harms, Adult Protective Services; Tiffany Hicks, St. Monica's; Barbara Straus, Aging Partners; Jill Kuzelka, Public Health Solutions District Health Department; Greg Bernt, Blue Valley Behavioral Health; Scott Etherton, Mental Health Crisis Center; Sara Draus, Bryan West; Kristin Nelson, Bridget Thompson, Robin Schmid, and Lee Heflebower, Region V Systems

1. **Welcome, Introductions, Announcements, Additions to the Agenda**

- Welcome and introductions were conducted.

2. **System Issues:**

Scott from the Crisis Center reported they have been using "Travis the Translator" a two-way communication device that has many languages and dialects. They cost about \$150-\$230 per unit. He also mentioned Microsoft translator, which can be used online or downloaded however does not have as much 2-way communication but has a larger format. Kristin mentioned there is funding for this through Region V, however the deadline may be today.

3. **Emergency issue flowchart for discussion:**

Kristin from Region V presented an Emergency Systems Flow Chart. Please see attached. Kristin reported other Regions are stating the issues are at the front end trying to find hospitals. Discussions began regarding Region V specific challenges. Trends are as follows: many days from the time of commitment to actual placement. LFS reported community support, outpatient and medication management are full and there are waits for these services (for non-Medicaid clients). There is relieve for medication management as there is a person being hired. Currently hiring for outpatient and community support as well. Open access (adults only) is Fridays for medication management, Tuesday and Thursday for mental health, and Tuesday and Wednesday for Substance Dependence. CenterPointe reflected the same challenges regarding medication management and outpatient. Open access (youth and adults) continued to be Monday – Friday office hours. The youth being served by open access are usually already connected to "the system" but have challenges with connecting with providers willing to work with them. Further discussion noted an increase in clients, possibly due to an increase in mobility with the nicer weather.

4. **Specific Case Discussion:** No specific cases were presented

5. **Updates:**

- Attendance at LOC meetings has been declining. Region V will send more notices/reminders. If anyone has requests for speakers or learning opportunities at these meetings, please contact Kristin Nelson.
- Adult Protective Services: no updates
- Crisis Center: Reported increase in "elderly" clients and challenges with finding providers for this specific population
- Blue Valley: Community Support rural providers are full, adding Beatrice providers soon. New program that is partnered with LPS is going well. Two people added for medication management are Lori Jurgens and Lisa Young

- Bryan West: All beds full currently. They have noted a trend in increased substance dependence clients and an increase in non-insured clients. Discussion increased including input from other agencies reflecting the same trend. No clear delineator of what the common denominator is.
- Centerpointe: New Adult Residential director is Ashley Volnek. They are “backed up” regarding medication management.
- Aging Partners: Harvest closed. Funding went to TASC and ADRC (for all ages now). LFS mentioned their already existing program is going to focus on the 55+ clientele.
- District Health Dept.: Working with a lot of flooding victims to find housing; schools reaching out for grants to get more counselors for prevention in schools; most counties have Hope Squads and LOSS teams but still not enough support in rural counties.
- St. Monica’s: Closed adolescent program, is now a transitional program for women and children. IOP still exists but at a different location. No waitlist for IOP and community support and 2-3 week waits for residential program.
- Lutheran Family Services: Agreed with rising trend of more severe mental health and substance dependence. Updates provided in earlier discussions. Hiring outpatient therapist, and medication management is full. Brought up possibility of an “enhanced rate” for MHB commitments, as they require more time to manage. Kristin will follow up regarding this.
- Region V Systems Housing – Rural housing shortage made worse by flooding. No wait for rural counties. Focus is on bridging current clients to permanent housing and applying for LHA. Have been able to fund all 12 fiscal months.
- Region V Systems Emergency Systems: Funding may not be cut as severely as previously expected.
- Other Discussions/News: Chris Seifert now handles County Attorneys’ office Docket Calls. Lancaster County Jail is looking at a change in screening for mental health issues which could impact the flow into the system.

6. **Bed / Capacity Availability Update:**

- Please see above

7. **Other Business:**

- No other business was presented.

8. **Next Meeting**

- The next meeting date is **June 17, 2019**, 1:30 - 3:00 p.m. (3rd Monday every other month)