

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

October 2, 2017

Present:

Greg Bernt, Blue Valley Behavioral Health
Sherri Cotter, Lancaster County Corrections
Jane Harms, Adult Protective Services
Tim Kennett, Lincoln Police Department
Anita Leonard, Mental Health Crisis Center
Stephanie McLeese, CenterPointe

Don Nevins, Parole
Phil Tegeler, The Bridge BH
Natalya Young, St. Monica's
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 reviewed year-end data relating to the Emergency system noting that there were 656 admissions at the Crisis Center (CC) for the fiscal year. Nelson commented that 78 of those admissions are repeat admissions with six individuals making up the majority of those re-admissions, one of whom has been admitted 12 times. These individuals repeat not only at the Crisis Center but at Bryan West, The Bridge Behavioral Health, Keya House, etc. Community meetings are continuing to attempt to find additional resources to stabilize these individuals.
- Average length of stay (ALOS) at the CC was six days. The CC was full on 27 days compared to 143 in 2007.
- Post Commitment (PC) days was at 595, down significantly from 2016 when there were 912 PC days. Nelson credited the low PC days to the cooperation the Region receives from treatment providers in getting clients admitted quickly.
- ALOS at Lincoln Regional Center is 866 days.
- ALOS at Mary Lanning is 17.7 days with 43 admissions in 16-17.
- TASC responded to 226 calls last year with a diversion rate of 88 percent. CenterPointe's Crisis Line took 2,300 calls. Both of these programs are responsible for keeping a significant number of individuals out of the emergency system through their intervention.
- Mental Health First Aid for adults and children is offered once a month on an alternating basis here at the Region. Region V has trained 1,150 people since the training became available. The training is an 8-hour day. MHFA training is not geared toward clinical staff, but would be useful for all other staffing levels.
- Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR) training is offered monthly at the Region and is a 1.5 hour training.
- BETA (Behavioral Health Threat Assessment) training is scheduled for the last week of January. A Save the Date will be going out this week. A one-day "mini-BETA" will be held in Gage County on December 11 targeting rural law enforcement as rural counties are unable to send their staff out-of-county for the four days BETA requires.
- The Bridge had 16 admissions last Thursday evening, coinciding with the Luke Bryan concert held in Rural Lancaster County.
- Staff at The Bridge has been meeting with other entities including Region V's John Turner to look at the chronic substance abuse users of the CPC. Five to seven individuals have been identified as "familiar faces" and three of those individuals have been in CPC over 100 times. These individuals also use other community resources including the jail, hospital, KEYA, etc. All agencies / programs impacted by this population have significant concerns for the safety

of these individuals. Collective interventions to meet the needs of these individuals are being explored.

- While these chronic substance users are a different population in general from the chronic users of the CC, there is some cross over between these populations.
- It was acknowledged that this population is highly transient, so providing case management, housing, and any other intervention is extremely difficult. A “Fresh Start” type model for men might be one suggestion. Another challenge is that a number of these individuals do not have legal status in this country, so finding services is much more difficult. Leonard is planning to attend a conference regarding chronic users of the system and hopes to learn about models that appear to be having some success in Washington and Oregon.

3. SPECIFIC CASE DISCUSSION

None.

4. BED / CAPACITY – AGENCY UPDATES

- Blue Valley Behavioral Health: openings in CS, MM, therapy in Lincoln; extensive WL for CS and MM in rural counties
- The Bridge Behavioral Health: STR full, openings in long term, 6 in withdrawal, 3 in respite, one coming to Passages today
- CenterPointe: 2 female openings at Community Transitions
- Crisis Center: census at 7 this morning; 2 individuals are hospitalized and 2 others are pending; 2 are waiting for LRC – 1 male and 1 female
- St. Monica’s: 4 week wait for priority, 8 weeks for non-priority; getting a lot of referrals from corrections; wait for TX 1 – 2 months; openings in IOP and CS and 2 adolescent beds
- Probation: offices now in Heritage Square, 421 K Street. Nevins concurred with the need for more housing options as the wait for programs such as Fresh Start is 4 / 5 months. Transitional houses are constantly full and can be problematic as on-site housing managers may have unbalanced boundaries which lead to violations. Probationers who violate while in transitional housing are very difficult to house in the future. Staffing challenges statewide also complicate the ability to safely monitor this population. Nevins expressed appreciation of LPD which has been responsive to the needs of his department.
- Adult Protective Services: Harms reinforced the theme of lack of placements for individuals who need to be removed for their environment for safety reasons. Statewide efforts are under way to develop solutions to help with clients needing assistance with ADLs and housing. Access to flex funding would be one helpful intervention.

5. OTHER DISCUSSION / BUSINESS

- Nelson commented that she recently toured a new integrated behavioral health facility with a capacity to serve 15/ 20 people. The program is opening today.
- The Region has been asked to provide advanced motivational interviewing training.

6. NEXT MEETING DATES

- The next combined meeting of the Emergency Services Level of Care and the Emergency Services Coordinating Committee will be December 4, 2017, beginning at **9:00 a.m.** at Region V Systems.