

Region V Systems

Promoting Comprehensive Partnerships in Behavioral Health

Region V Systems: Level of Care Meeting

November 18, 2020

1:00 p.m.

Zoom Teleconference

Present: Present: Meghan Leikam, Associates in Counseling and Treatment; Kim Scrivner, Blue Valley Behavioral Health; Katie Kimmerling, The Bridge Behavioral Health; Shala Heartman, Stephanie McLeese, CenterPointe; Ashely Borchers, Community Corrections; Aaron Adams, Division of Behavioral Health; Kerri Anderson, Nick Flewelling, Integrated Behavioral Health; Tim Kennett, Lincoln Police Department; Dina Critel-Rathje, Lutheran Family Services; Amy Rezny, Nebraska Department of Correctional Services; Kristin Nelson, Gretchen Mills, Region V Systems

Welcomes were made followed by brief introductions. Nelson apologized for not sharing screen with agenda items, due to technical work-from-home difficulties. Thanks for being patient!

System Updates

- Integrated Behavioral Health Services' Secure Residential Program is set to open on December 2, 2020 with up to four (4) consumers. This is a 30-90-day program for consumers with severe and persistent mental health illnesses. They will provide 24/7 nursing, medication management, therapy, group therapy, with up to 50 hours of programming within a typical week. Anyone can be referred, and Lincoln Regional Center referrals have priority. It is a Medicaid program.
- The Mayor of the City of Lincoln has given the Lincoln Police Department additional monies for training and this will bring some exciting opportunities for crisis training, CIT training, and/or other training expansion.
- The High Utilizer Review Team (HURT) continues to meet every Thursday at 10:00 a.m. If your agency has a specific consumer that you would like to present to HURT, email Nelson, get a released signed, and they will investigate recommendations and suggestions. HURT will also give you a chance to call into the community team meeting to discuss in detail. HURT is a productive group that has been coming up with solutions to the emergency services' high utilizers. One consumer who was calling on emergency services excessively just passed her 45-day mark of no interaction with emergency services.
- Nelson discussed looking into public guardianship for a consumer at the Mental Health Crisis Center and she learned that the waitlist is 90 days (or a max of two-90-day cycles). The Public Guardian waitlist does prioritize cases based on severity. An attorney must file a petition for priority, and it's hopeful that State funds may be utilized for this cost, prior to having an individual on a guardianship.

Agency Updates

- **Region V Systems:** RVS has moved back to teleworking though employees have more freedom to come into the office when needed. Normal operations are projected to resume on January 18, 2021.

- **The Bridge Behavioral Health:** The Bridge remains operational at about 50% capacity; they are trying to keep people to single rooms or rooms that can accommodate the six (6) foot social distancing requirements. They are holding AA in the building and are seeing clients in person. They are looking for a clinician and will consider various types of licensure and experience.
- **CenterPointe:** CenterPointe continues to operate as per usual, they do have face-to-face crisis walk-ins, field response. The Crisis line is operational, and all groups are now done via Zoom. Consumers must come in for an initial appointment for medication management or crisis call because there are safety issues if a person is psychotic or suicidal. Hours for walk-in services are M/W/F 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.; T/TH 8:00 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.; Saturdays 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Medical services are currently scheduled as there is only one provider. MidPointe is accepting referrals.
- **Blue Valley Behavioral Health:** BVBH is busy, taking referrals for community support, are meeting face-to-face and via zoom. They are noticing lots of need out there, people are reaching out and offices are operational.
- **Lutheran Family Services:** LFS continues to be busy, offering all services, and most are remote/telehealth services. If there is an in-community need they will meet face-to-face, such as meeting the requirements that foster children/families be met with in person. They are working on adding a crisis response component to their CCBHC grant and enhancing peer support services.
- **Community Transitions:** Day programming continues to be held in-house. There will be two (2) male/female openings within a few months.
- **Nebraska Department of Corrections:** Corrections is trying to manage the virus as best they can, Rezny asked if other agencies have seen any issues with Medicaid Expansion and if there were any concerns. Feedback was given about Medicaid Expansion covering all managed care, reauthorizations haven't been an issue, and there are no current concerns. A question was posed about writing letters of recommendations for a consumer and Nelson expressed it adds an extra layer of safety, however, if there is no Mental Health Board Commitment, check with the provider first about the referrals,
- **Bryan West:** The senior mental health unit had to be transitioned into a medical unit to accommodate other hospital needs for patients. They are seeing a lot of patients, medical, covid-19, and mental health. Hospital staff are doing the best that they can, seeing so many patients. Please keep them in your prayers and thoughts. Bryan has many positions open right now, please encourage people to apply if they need a job (non-clinical runners, traffic control at test sites, observe nurses putting on/removing PPE).
- **Integrated Behavioral Health Services:** IBHS is at full capacity, they are engaging in face-to-face meetings, and they have the capacity for telehealth, they are taking referrals for all services. The secure residential is set to open and a referral letter will be attached to these minutes. It is a locked facility with 24/7 care, but it is not a "jail" type situation. If a consumer wants to leave, they will be able to with guardian notification if other interventions do not work to keep them in the program.
- **Lincoln Police Department:** The pandemic is affecting LPD heavily as first responders. They are in-person as per usual. There is lots of exposure, dispatch is doing a great job screening public with symptom screening. It is also hard to have the type of personal contact and relationship building that was possible pre-covid-19 with the public. It is a strain; however, they are working through the challenges.

- **Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services:** The Division appreciates the innovation that agencies have applied during the pandemic. If anyone needs Nebraska Strong materials, please contact Aaron Adams, he will provide you with outreach materials.
- **Associates in Counseling and Treatment:** ACT has begun a new sanitizing schedule due to the pandemic. Operations have been steady and consistent.
- **Mental Health Crisis Center:** MHCC has seen a slower pace over the past month, LPD EPCs are flat, more manageable. One consumer, with a unique situation, has been at the MHCC for 150 days, which is taxing on the staff as the MHCC is meant to be utilized for 3-10 days, not several months. There have been no confirmed cases of covid-19 in their facility. There will be more information soon on the Advanced Mental Health Directives that were approved last year.
- **Community Corrections:** CC is currently working one week on/one week off due to the pandemic. The new reentry program will be up and running in January 2021.

Training/events: Please let Nelson know of any ideas for training that would be beneficial to both providers and law enforcement. Training has been a challenge for some via Zoom, however there are training dollars.

No Specific Case Discussion.

No Other Business.

Next Meeting

- December 16, 2020 via Zoom. Gretchen will send out invite reminders.

Meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.