



*Behavioral Health Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
November 15th, 2019*

6101 Yellowstone Road, Cheyenne, WY 82009
CenturyLink Building, Lower Level Training Room
[Hangouts Meet Link](#)

Phone: 1-423-735-3117 PIN: 130 379#

Friday, November 15th, 2019

Council Members Present: Andy Lemke, Brenda Stout, Cassandra Crumpton, Donna Sedey, Jessi Westling, Kathryn “Kat” Campbell, Laura Griffith, Paul Demple, Robert Johnston, Brenda Stout, Jo Ann Numoto, Sam Borbely, and Sharon Pucillo

BHD Present: Erica Mathews, Dani Sullivan, and Megan Norfolk
(Additional for only Human Trafficking: Alicia Johnson, Jessie Schaefer, Janelle Smolinski)

On the Phone: Amanda Bialas, Sue Wilson, Sunny Goggles,

Excused: Sherry Mercer, Trudy Funk, and Michaela Tschirhart

Special Guests:

- Pamela Perea, Boards and Commissions, Governor’s Office
- Cara Chambers, Director of the Division of Victim Services, Attorney General’s Office
- Elizabeth Champlain, RN, SANE-A, SANE-P, of Cheyenne Regional Medical Center’s Forensic Nursing Program

No additions to the agenda

Voting:

Approval of Chair, Vice Chair, Membership Chair

Open for voting, finalization next meeting. Please find PDF or website for voting, open for all.

Paul Demple for Chair

Sam Borbely / open for voting for Vice Chair

Katheryn “Kat” Campbell for Membership Chair

Vice Chair had four nominees – Sam Borbely, Laura Griffith, Carolyn Yeaman, and Kyle Gamroth. Laura respectfully declined, while Carolyn and Kyle are no longer in the council.

Approval of Agenda and Meeting Minutes (Sept, March, June) – Donna moved, Brenda seconded, Unanimous agreement of approval.

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MHSAS Update – MHSA Staff

Erica Mathews is our new Grant and Program Manager. Ben Kifer our new MHSA Administrator. No update of the Senior Administrator, Heather Babbitt remains the Interim. Stefan Johansson is overseeing the facilities, while the rumor is they'll be back under BHD upon a Senior Admin hire.

Block Grant was submitted, revision requests due to our turnover and updating contact information. Block Grant Report 20 working on.

Governor's Office – Boards and Commissions Process for Membership

Pamela Perea with the Governor's Office – Council Membership. New process and open to suggestions on the process. Board hasn't had a large role in the application and getting people on board. Governor's Office would like to be more involved. This includes meeting minutes and any information BHAC feels necessary to let the Governor know about; as you are more the boots on the ground.

Session has made things messed. There are open seats. There should be one to two months – point of contact or membership chair to let Pamela for recommendations to fill in seats. The Governor does like listening into why a particular person is recommended. Pamela meets with the Governor, at least 2 times a month for Boards and Commissions, she is able to present any information we have to the Governor over appointing individuals to a seat. Hopefully he'll make a decision, he may have Pamela looking more deeply or research on a person. Thus, a pending status.

When positions have expired, the person in the role will need to continue doing that role until replaced.

Once the appointment has been made by the Governor, she'll reach out to the contact person [BHD's contact and/or Chair]. Pamela will let one of us know the reappointed and/or new appointments. Which we are then able to let the person know they will be receiving a letter from the Governor's Office with information needed to be sent back to the Governor's Office.

The Board ID's are in the process of updating, making them look more official. Pamela will also send those to the new appointments. Any person who needs the Board IDs or letters from the Governor's Office, please let Megan or Paul aware so we can notify Pamela.

If a member is not showing up, not responding to all forms of communications given, BHAC has done all that can be done, and they have missed three consecutive meetings; the Board Chair needs to let Pamela know to provide the information to the Governor for his decision. If he decides to move forward with removing an individual from the Council, the Board Chair and



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the Governor's Office will put together documentation and then the Governor's Office will send the member a letter thanking them for their time and service and they will no longer be serving.

A new appointment needs to still be appointed. Huge lists, generally during the sessions. Interims are generally provided for boards.

Expired individuals and reappointments – Governor's Office is working on getting done. Governor has to have a really good reason as to not reappoint a person. The Governor's Office has a website [\[HERE\]](#) and is currently being updated. Senate confirmed appointments are priority. Then summer will hopefully be caught up.

Special thanks to Ms. Perea for taking time out of her schedule to speak with us over the Boards and Commissions process and what the Council can expect.

The BHAC Google website. Going through where documents are, news updates, meeting dates with locations (directions included), previous meeting minutes and the years' worth of meeting minutes.

Legislative Interim Committees

Joint Labor, HSS Meeting Update – Paul Demple (Leading)

Paul - Approximately 21 different bills looking, and it was too much for the committee to take on. Substance abuse licensure and reciprocity was a topic the committee was looking at. There was discussion about creating a different licensing board for substance abuse, more requirements, looking at what are other states doing? Co-Chair said there was too much on the LHSS agenda so they pared it down, eliminating many things. The licensure issue could come up again during the legislative session but would require a 2/3 approval from the body to be heard. and difficult, Stemmed from folks contracted with Corrections in Torrington and Boot Camp, etc.; they felt the rules and regulations were problematic for hiring staff.

Sam – Difficulty finding licensed and certified positions. Couple of positions have been vacant since the start of the biennium. Casper capacity upped but five counselor positions remain open. Many experienced and knowledgeable people had applied but due to these restrictions, they were ineligible to provide services in Wyoming.

Paul – We need to be careful requiring mental health and substance abuse staff to become too specialized as it will create significant problems in the more rural areas. Very small, rural areas are often staffed by as few as one professional staff. Requiring specializations will result in more problems hiring, increase cost of service delivery, and decreased service availability.



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Peer Support Specialist

Paul has had positions open for about a year. Trying to hire people is difficult right now, between getting people to come to Wyoming, especially younger individuals and to small towns. Northern Wyoming Mental Health Center is utilizing a company called PsychPro to try to find staff nationally. If a person is hired, they received 20% of the hired individual's salary. National trends show, there is a shortage. Mental Health and Substance Abuse shortage on professionals and is getting worse. When Feds put out more programs, there isn't enough people to cover or won't be in the future, especially in rural areas.

Donna – Community College, encouraging/recruiting individuals to go into the MH programs.

Paul – Not only is the MH field, there is a shortage in many fields.

Brenda – Medicaid is writing a white paper on Peer Specialist to expand them into the federal law in rural health centers, hospitals, and emergency departments.

Task Force

Donna – Department of Health for focus groups.

Brenda – Bill forward with little forward. Director would have to go and see what he can do before the legislative session and report to Legislators.

Paul – BHAC will want to be involved. We (WAMSAC) are currently working with Dept. of Health on new contracts, the discussion going forward from Heather Babbitt, Stefan Johansson, and Director Mike A. Ceballos, changes for hardships of centers. Centers are losing money. Basic outpatient is an example, Medicaid opened up to private providers, centers took the more cuts, the system on how contracts were paid changed, all accumulating to a financial stress on centers. System is stress and will continued to be stressed.

How do we continue to provide mental health and substance abuse services to individuals with shortages?

Telehealth – High school student was in significant crisis in small town, Northern could have sent someone there (2hrs later) but instead connected the Clinical Director with the student through telehealth, and it really worked well. Some counties are embracing the idea of telehealth and are responding faster. Medicaid does pay for telehealth services, though the idea of a funding source would need to be determined for individuals not under Medicaid.



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Rob – As the Council, are we requesting Paul to write letters on our behalf to the Governor's Office or Committees about talking points (such as above)?

Donna – Director Ceballos we're willing to be a part in coordination with the task force.

Paul – Letter to Mike Ceballos, Stefan, Ben, and Heather. BHAC wants to be a part of the discussion. Board array of people who touch these subjects. Voices of the boots on the ground individuals. (Updated note: Ben has asked to hold off on this for the time being until we know more)

Reviews of the Bylaws, Meetings & Locations

Previously a subcommittee reviewed the bylaws. The Council went through the revised lines in a group discussion on updates and edits. Please see the attached document. Include substance use disorder within the language throughout the document.

Brenda – Contact Lisa Brockman for adolescent representative. Recommend we all ask around to fill these open positions on the Council.

Human Trafficking Presentation – Director Chambers and Ms. Champlain

Presentation conducted by guest speakers, Director Cara Chambers of the Attorney General's Division of Victim Services and Elizabeth Champlain, RN, SANE-A, SANE-P, of Cheyenne Regional Medical Center's Forensic Nursing Program. Please find the slides attached, there are links and the video presented on the BHAC website. Feel free to post the Human Trafficking video to your social media outlets, along with any resources. If you run into a situation like this, reach out to the resources, local PD, Highway Patrol, CRMC, etc.

Special thank you to both Director Chambers and Ms. Champlain for taking time to speak with us over an important topic such as Human Trafficking.

WICHE Needs Assessment – Dani Sullivan

WICHE Documents are available on the website and attached for your reading. Gaps, barriers, suggestions for improvements, strengths, weaknesses, etc.

This discussion was an overview of the final reports. Reminder the Division did have one to look at the data system and one of the services. These reports will be used in our toolbox. Until we have the Leadership positions filled, we are unaware of where the view of the Division will be heading.



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Transitional Services were not in the top three priorities but were on the list of concerns. Draft was not released to anyone because the Division determined the assessment was WICHE's assessment and report and how they determined the information. It is not the end-all-be-all, it's in the toolbox. Providers were interviewed individually via Zoom with WICHE, purpose to get feedback on pieces of the system, among other feedback. The Division, specifically the data unit (KMAT) was also interviewed with purpose to get feedback on what works and what doesn't work.

Meeting Dates and Locations

March 20th, 2020 – Casper, WY – Location to be determined – Please watch website

June 19th, 2020 – Evanston, WY – Location to be determined – WSH Tour Request

August 14th, 2020 – Lander, WY – Location to be determined – WLRC Tour Request

November 13th – Cheyenne, WY – Location to be determined – New downtown location

Agenda Requested Item – March 20th, 2020 – Broad Use of Peer Specialist Support – Paul Demple with Brenda Stout speaking on the white paper (previously mentioned).

Recommended Lander location – Central Wyoming College at 120 Enterprise Blvd, Lander, WY 82520; 307-332-3394

Future agenda request item – Donna Sedey speaking on NAMI Smarts State Training.

Brenda Stout motioned approval of meeting dates and locations, Second by Kat Campbell, unanimous approval.

Public Comment

Donna Sedey is attended a training to become a NAMI Smarts State Trainer, teaching people to advocate for themselves. She is available for weekends, costs would be for materials, and it's about a day and a half on how to state their stories and requests to Legislators (brief and precise). Correspondence training as well, an effective way for advocating.

Adjourned

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