**Children and Youth Behavioral Health Subcommittee**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday, July 10, 2019**

# Agenda Item 1: Welcome and Introductions

The Children and Youth Behavioral Health Subcommittee meeting was called to order at 10:07 a.m. with Barbara Granger (CYBHS co-chair) providing a welcome to the members. Members introduced themselves. Table 1 shows attendance for the meeting.

Table 1: The CYBHS Subcommittee member attendance.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **MEMBER NAME** | **YES** | **NO** | **MEMBER NAME** | **YES** | **NO** |
| **Behavioral Health Advisory Council** | | | **Suicide Prevention** | | |
| Donna Fagan |  | X | Merily Keller |  | X |
| **Community** | | | Lisa Sullivan (Alternate) |  | X |
| *Heart of Texas*  Ron Kimbell |  | X | **TX Correctional Office Medical/Medical Impairments** | | |
| *Heart of Texas*  Telawna Kirbie (Alternate) | X |  | Krista Greathouse | X |  |
| *Tropical Texas*  Monica Rodriguez |  | X | **Texas Dept. of Family & Protective Services** | | |
| **Family** | | | Lauren Bledsoe |  | X |
| Barbara Granger | X |  | Trace Burks-Bell  (Alternate) |  | X |
| Valencia Gensollen | X |  |
| Verlyn Johnson (Alternate) | X |  | **Texas Dept. of State Health Services** | | |
| **Health and Human Services Commission** | | |
| *Children’s Mental Health*  Amelia Somers |  | X | Vacant |  | X |
| *Medicaid*  John Huffine | X |  | **Texas Education Agency** | | |
| *Mental Health Coordination*  Lilly Nguyen | X |  | Julie Wayman |  | X |
| *Texas System of Care* Kisha Ledlow |  | X | Denise Magallanez (Alternate) |  | X |
| *Substance Use Treatment*  Suzanne Alley |  | X |  |  |  |
| **Children’s Traumatic Stress Network** | | | **Texas Juvenile Justice Department** | | |
| Vacant |  |  | Vacant |  |  |
| Marie Welsch (Alternate) | X |  |
| **Higher Education** | | | **Youth/Young Adult** | | |
| *UT-TIEMH*  Molly Lopez | X |  | Vacant |  |  |
| Nigel Cunningham Williams |  | X |

Yes: Indicates attended the meeting No: Indicates did not attend the meeting

Attended Online: Anne Bondesen (Burke), Josette Saxton (Texans Care), Kristina, Molly Sanders (TIEMH), Nicole Weaver

Also in attendance: Meg Wallace (family), Robin Wallace (family), Leela Rice (Texas Council), Linda Litzinger (Parent 2 Parent), Lisa Harst (CACTX), Adrian Gasper (Disability Rights), Sara Underwood (HHSC), Lauren Gerken (HHSC), Arnold Amador (TIEMH), Jameson Cardenas (TIEMH), Glenn Dembowski (TIEMH), Kaleigh Emerson (TIEMH), Andrés Guariguata (TIEMH), Holly Gursslin (TIEMH), Zatara Lumen (TIEMH), Alissa Sughrue (NAMI), Monica Lucas (WCY), Christa Coker (DFPS), Kaitlyn Wallace (MMHPI), Monica Thyssen (MMPHI), Laura Kender (MHMR of Tarrant County), Nataly Sauceda (United Way of Texas), Maya Fehler (TIEMH), Sonja Burns (advocate), Nidia Heston (Via Hope)

# Agenda Item 2: Family/Youth Experience (Meg Wallace)

# Meg Wallace shared her experience as a mother of two daughters, now young adults.

# Ms. Wallace’s oldest daughter first showed signs of mental health difficulties in 8th grade. She was diagnosed with schizophrenia and bipolar disorder. Her parents were going through a difficult divorce, and there was a lot of conflict and tension at home. The family had a lot of support from their church, neighbors, and community services. During that time, her daughter had an excellent psychologist and therapist through her school; she received a year in psychiatric homebound instruction, and received funding from an individualized care grant that funded one school year of residential treatment. After that, she returned home to complete a year in therapeutic day school, leaving just before graduation. She earned her GED later.

Ms. Wallace stated that school support staff were overwhelmed and unable to provide personalized services to her daughter. Her daughter also had a dating violence situation in which the police response exacerbated her distress. Ms. Wallace’s daughter also struggled with the transition from child to adult services, including issues with SSI that were challenging to resolve. But she eventually connected with the Emerge program, a wraparound, community-based service program that helped her find stable housing and explore job opportunities. She was one of the first clients of this program, which supports people up to the age of twenty-five.

When Ms. Wallace asked her daughter what she wanted to share with the group, she reflected that she needs people to talk to her like she’s an adult. She stated she wants to be treated with respect, and when she is treated with respect, she generally responds well to the support. Partly as a result of her family’s experiences, Ms. Wallace has launched a non-profit in Waco, TX called the Amberly Collaborative, with the goal of strengthening natural supports in communities. The non-profit is currently reaching out to faith organizations to see how they connect with people in their congregations who have been affected by mental health challenges and are exploring how they can support these linkages. Ms. Wallace shared that the main thing she learned from her experiences is that good, solid professional services are worth their weight in gold. She further stated that these services can be limited in scope and hard to access, therefore, family and community support is critical.

# Agenda Item 3: Children and Youth Behavioral Health Subcommittee (CYBHS) Business

Barbara Granger stated that quorum was not reached in today’s meeting, so there will only be a discussion about business items, but there will be no votes.

The minutes from the April 9, 2019 meeting were presented for review and any modifications. No suggestions were made; the minutes will be voted on at the next meeting.

Barbara announced that Lori Robinson has moved positions within the Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJD) and has stepped down from her role as a CYBHS member and co-chair elect. A nominations workgroup will identify co-chair nominees to be considered in an election. Barbara asked members and attendees to think of nominees to submit for consideration as co-chair for the next meeting.

Barbara read a letter of resignation from Mitch Cochran, one of the youth representatives. He has submitted his resignation due to health concerns.

Molly Lopez referred members to the Member Roster in the packet and provided an overview of the membership requirements outlined in the bylaws of CYBHS. The bylaws currently state that members serve a three-year term, with an opportunity for renewal for an additional term. The subcommittee has just hit its three year mark, and the bylaws do not indicate how the decision is made if there is an opportunity for a second three-year term.

Since quorum hasn’t been met, Molly suggested that emails could be sent out to the members asking active members to choose if they’re willing to serve another term and notify inactive members that their term has ended. Vacant positions would be filled through an election following identification by the nominations workgroup.

Molly presented an update about the policy recommendations that were voted to move forward at the last meeting. These recommendations have been shared with the policy subcommittee of the Behavioral Health Advisory Committee (BHAC), and they will be considered at a meeting later this month.

# Agenda Item 4: Project Linking Actions for Unmet Needs in Children’s Health (LAUNCH) (Holly Gursslin and Laura Kender)

# Holly Gursslin and Laura Kender presented updates about Project LAUNCH. Please see presentation for reference. They both spoke about Project LAUNCH, the goals of the initiative, the accomplishments from the last four years, and how the efforts will be sustained beyond the grant period.

Funded by Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), Project LAUNCH is a national initiative to support the social emotional development, mental health, and wellness of all children ages 0-8. Texas LAUNCH (a collaboration of Aliviane Inc., the Texas Institute for Excellence in Mental Health (TIEMH), and the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) Maternal and Child Health) builds on the success of the national initiative and previous state grant in El Paso focusing on 4 core strategies:

1. Increase screening and assessment in a range of child serving settings
2. Provide family strengthening and parent skills training
3. Implement early childhood mental health consultation
4. Build early childhood competency in the workforce

The grant period was from October of 2015 to September of 2019. Texas LAUNCH expanded these strategies to three new communities: Bexar County, Tarrant County, and the Ysleta del Sur Pueblo.

# Agenda Item 5: National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Texas Policy Update (Alissa Sughrue)

Alissa Sughrue presented a broad overview of mental health activities in the 86th Legislative Session. Please refer to the presentation for reference. She spoke about NAMI Texas and gave a brief overview of NAMI’s history as a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization founded by volunteers in 1984. They are one of the nation’s largest grassroots mental health organizations and exist to help improve the quality of life for individuals with mental illness and their families.

The legislative session is over and the budget has been completed. She provided an overview of bills that were passed and that were not passed in the following categories: Capacity & Workforce, Student Mental Health, School Climate/Juvenile Justice, Foster Care, Maternal Health, Child/Youth Insurance, and Suicide Prevention. The presentation ended with time for questions and comments.

**Agenda Item 6: Legislative Impact and Implementation (Alissa Sughrue)**

A discussion was facilitated on ways to impact implementation of the legislation that passed, as well as future legislation. The recommendation was made that interested parties maintain a focus on some of the legislation that was championed in the past session, but failed to pass. It was noted that many bills need multiple opportunities before they are successfully passed. The recommendation was made to start early with interim charges, looking for opportunities to keep potential issues in the discussion. One suggestion was to perhaps form a workgroup to continue to emphasize relevant bills. The recommendation was also made to reach out to your local representatives and build strong relationships with legislators and their staff. Lastly, attendees identified ensuring that bills are filed very early in the session as important to giving them the best chance for a full consideration.

Participants also discussed strategies for influencing legislation that was passed, with agencies working on implementation plans. Many members expressed an interest in collaborating with the Texas Education Agency (TEA) on school mental health legislation, trying to ensure that the work of CYBHS to strengthen collaborations, foster youth and family-driven systems, ensure cultural sensitivity, and utilize evidence-based practices was infused into the planning process. The recommendation was also made that CYBHS track the funding provided for child and adolescent mental health.

# Agenda Item 7: Texas System of Care Strategic Finance Plan Development

This agenda item was postponed to a future meeting due to time constraints.

**Agenda Item 8: Memorandum of Understanding Tracking Tool (Molly Lopez)**

As a part of the Texas System of Care initiative, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was developed to outline how all participating state agencies and local communities would work to enhance the System of Care. To better understand how agencies are carrying out the MOU strategies, Kisha Ledlow and Tracy Levins created the MOU Tracking Workbook, which is an Excel document with a worksheet for each agency. The workbook allows representatives to document strategies they are using to implement the action items negotiated in the MOU. Molly Lopez walked members through the document and asked for feedback.

The members present at the meeting reported no concerns with the format and felt that they would be able to provide updates on the elements. Molly asked the group for feedback on the timeframe that made the most sense for tracking these updates. Following discussion, members indicated that reporting should be frequent enough to ensure accountability, but not so frequent that there would not be updates to report. A general consensus was reached that reporting every six months would be reasonable.

**Agenda Item 9: Project Updates**

# Molly Lopez presented some updates for the Alliance for Adolescent Recovery and Treatment in Texas (AART-TX). This past quarter, the grant has created a Workforce Subcommittee which will dive into workforce issues that were identified in the strategic plan, particularly around some of the challenges that people are facing while trying to get their Licensed Chemical Dependency Counseling (LCDC) licenses. There are many barriers that people face through the process, and the subcommittee is going to work to try to identify those barriers and how to address them.

Jameson Cardenas shared information about the Texas System of Care website redesign. The website redesign project started six months ago with the goal of updating all information and enhancing the user experience. The project is in its final stages and there is a draft version of the website. Jameson stated that they are looking for help to test the site before the launch in late August. Any feedback given will be used to improve the site.

Andrés Guariguata provided an update on youth activities. ACCEPT, a state youth and young adult leadership organization, is continuing to expand, and members will be voting on two new chapters in the upcoming months. David McClung and other members attended the Association for Recovery in Higher Education Conference in Boston, which provided them the opportunity to network and engage with collegiate recovery programs. David and other ACCEPT members will be piloting the new youth voice training called Turning Your Passion into Action in Katy, TX in August.

Valencia Gensollen provided an update on family activities. The Texas Family Voice Network had a meeting on May 23rd and it was determined that the Network will be moving forward with sustainability efforts and transitioning to becoming a 501(c)3. They will have a national consultant come to work with them to help with that process.

# Agenda Item 10: Public Comment

Sonia Burns provided public comment. She has a twin brother that has been at the Austin State Hospital for 11 years. She wrote to every single legislator that she met with over the session (about 100 offices), and to every sheriff in Texas. She is attending CYBHS today to bring to light that children are not included in the Austin State Hospital redesign plan. She shared her concern that there is a lot of disconnect between the services being provided and best practices.

# Agenda Item 11: Next Steps

The October meeting will include Agenda Item 7.

**Agenda Item 12: Announcements**

Next Meeting: October 9th, 2019 at 10:00 am

The meeting adjourned at 2:55 pm.