

Children and Youth Behavioral Health Subcommittee

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 10th, 2018

Agenda Item 1: Welcome and Introductions

The Children and Youth Behavioral Health Subcommittee meeting was called to order at 10:07 a.m. with a welcome and introductions. Table 1 shows attendance for the meeting.

MEMBER NAME	YES	NO	MEMBER NAME	YES	NO
John Huffine (HHSC - Medicaid)		X	Lori Robinson (TJJD)	X	
Lauren Bledsoe (DFPS)	X		Lyndsi Sandoval (TCOOMI)	X	
Marisol Acosta (HHSC-Behavioral Health Services)		X	Suzanne Alley (HHSC-Behavioral Health Services)	X	
Barbara Granger (Family Representative)	X		Molly Lopez (Higher Education-TIEMH-UT Austin)	X	
Julie Wayman (TEA)	X		Monica Rodriguez (Community Representative Tropical Texas)		X
Lillian Nguyen (HHSC-OMHC)	X		Ron Kimbell (Community Representative Heart of Texas)	X	
Valencia Gensollen (Family Representative)	X		Ramah Leith (DSHS)	X	
Ayo Gathing (BHAC Representative)	X		Nigel Cunningham Williams (Youth Representative)		X
Kate Peoples (BHAC Representative)		X	Mitch Cochran (Youth Representative)		X
			Merily Hodge-Keller (Community Partner)		X

'Yes' indicates attended the meeting; 'no' indicates did not attend the meeting

Also in Attendance: Kisha Ledlow, Andrés Guariguata, Soila Villarreal, Anne Bondensen, Cory Morris, Christopher Burton, David McClung, Glenn Dembowski, Arnoldo Amador, Glinda Shaffer (attended online), Henshaw Mbosowo, Jameson Cardenas, Joanne Mundy (attended online), Josette Saxton, Kamala Joy, Kay Brotherton (attended online), Leela Rice, Nidia Heston, Shannon Moreno, Trace Burks, Tracy Levins, Verlyn Johnson, and Kym Oltrogge

Agenda Item 2: Youth/Family Experience

Through a video recorded for CYBHS, David McClung (TxSOC) introduced CYBHS members to Jessica Mulliniks, Youth Peer Support Specialist at Terrell State Hospital in Terrell, Texas. Born and raised about 90 minutes from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Jessica described her journey as beginning when she began therapy when she was 3 years old. By the time she was 6 years old, she was taking antipsychotic medication. Jessica shared the difficulty and pressure

she faced with her mental illness, praising her home state of Pennsylvania for their mental health services and the amount and type of help she was able to receive. She moved to Texas when she was 20 years old. She shared that she never felt acknowledged by the mental health professionals she saw and felt powerless about her illness, treatment, and recovery. She would have liked better communication and for her treatment professionals to take the time to try to understand how she felt. Relationships with treatment providers were difficult to establish because her voice as a youth was not heard. She wanted to have a say in her treatment decisions, but did not feel as if she could truly open up to those providers. Jessica stressed the importance of young people needing to trust the adults who are providing care to them.

At the age of 20, Jessica was introduced to peer support. As a result of her lived experience, Jessica is able to identify with and communicate with other young people in meaningful ways. Her goal is to provide an opportunity for young people to use their voice to design treatments that work for them, ongoing support for their success, and to treat people equally, regardless of their diagnoses. Her mission for the future is to see peer support grow because she knows how successful it can be. She loves that people come back to update her on how they are doing. In closing, Jessica stressed the importance of having youth at the table in these conversations because it acknowledges them and helps their voices to be heard.

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

Minutes

After quorum was confirmed, minutes from the July 11, 2018 meeting were presented for review and approval. A motion was made to accept the minutes with no changes. Through vote of members, minutes were approved unanimously.

Election of New Officer

At the previous meeting, CYBHS members were asked to consider self-nominating or nominating another person to serve as a co-Chair. The nominations committee met to review the nominations and contacted all nominees to ensure their willingness to serve in the role. The nomination committee shared brief bios of each nominee to all members prior to the meeting. Nominees included Lauren Bledsoe (Department of Family and Protective Services, DFPS), Lori Robinson (Texas Juvenile Justice Department, TJJD), and Lillian Nguyen (Health and Human Services Commission, HHSC).

Members submitted confidential votes both in person and online. Dr. Lori Robinson (TJJD) was selected as the next co-Chair. Dr. Robinson will be included in leadership activities for the following two meetings and commence her role as co-Chair at the April 2019 meeting.

Agenda Item 4: CYBHS Policy Recommendations

Dr. Tracy Levins (TxSOC) updated CYBHS members on the Youth Peer Support Roundtable, an event co-hosted by Texas System of Care (TxSOC) and the Alliance for Adolescent Recovery and Treatment in Texas (AART-TX) and held in September. Bringing together 45 stakeholders in Austin, the Roundtable agenda included a presentation by a national expert in youth peer support best practices, a panel of youth peer support recipients, and panel presentation by youth peer support providers. Participants also engaged in facilitated discussions on implementation approaches. Proceedings summarizing the event have been drafted and will be released in January.

Agenda Item 5: Texas Juvenile Justice Department and Texas System of Care Implementation

Dr. Lori Robinson (TJJD) provided a presentation (see attached) on how TJJD is implementing system of care values and practices. Dr. Robinson began by stressing TJJD's focus on rehabilitation rather than punishment for youth in the care of the agency. TJJD provides funding and technical assistance to about 160 juvenile probation departments around the state, as well as services provided to young people in secure juvenile correctional facilities, halfway houses, and parole offices.

TJJD monitors the continuum so that young people receive the correct services and offers youth choice as much as possible, especially under the umbrella of trauma-informed care. Discretionary grants provided to the juvenile probation departments are focused on intensive community care programs. TJJD and the local probation departments are excited to work with Collin County and Burke on implementing the new system of care communities.

After her presentation, Dr. Robinson answered questions from CYBHS members. In response to a question from Kamala Joy (Via Hope) about TJJD's ability to offer formal or informal positions for youth, Dr. Robinson explained that there are family liaison positions, based on the needs identified in each of the regions, but there are not yet youth positions available.

Josette Saxton (Texans Care for Children) asked Dr. Robinson about the number of youth committed to TJJD who have not committed a felony. Dr. Robinson replied that the counties determine which youth are sent to TJJD, depending on the level of the offense and the individual needs of the youth. There are special commitments to TJJD, but all youth would have committed a felony.

Dr. Lopez inquired about TJJD's implementation of trauma-informed care. Dr. Robinson explained that the state directly supervises facilities and employees in the implementation of trauma-informed care practices, but probation departments are independently operated. TJJD is striving to help local departments build capacity for trauma-informed care, so youth can be served locally instead of being sent to a state facility.

Shannon Moreno (TxSOC) asked how TJJD ensures that services are culturally and linguistically competent. Dr. Robinson detailed the steps they take to increase cultural and linguistic competency and outlined some of the challenges faced because of the limited resources available.

Agenda Item 6: Using the Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services Standards

Shannon Moreno (TxSOC) provided CYBHS members with a presentation on the national Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS) standards. Framed originally for healthcare organizations, the CLAS standards provides a useful framework for implementing cultural and linguistic competency into all services. Ms. Moreno described the standards, providing special attention to standards 4, 10, and 13 (see attached). She asked participants to break into self-selected small groups focused on one of the three standards, and to briefly discuss and identify the next steps for positive change. Representatives reported their conclusions.

Standard 4 group: Demetria Alexander (HHSC) talked about governance, leadership, and workforce. Their next steps included meeting the need for additional training and support within the workforce on how: (a) CLAS standards can be put into practice; (b) services could involve more youth voice; and (c) CYBHS can make recommendations.

Standard 10 group: Verlyn Johnson (family representative) discussed bringing in new community voices to identify needs (versus agency perceived needs) and how participants can work with the agencies for implementation of policy. Their group thought the next steps would be to realistically present community needs in a way that agencies can influence policy and have agency leaders become more involved with the community members.

Standard 14 remote group: Cory Morris (TxSOC) presented on behalf of the remote participants' online group. Remote participants identified the need to offer more meeting times to increase community participation, explore the ability to conduct informal research to identify best practices specific to communities, and encourage shifts within practice based-wisdom models to incorporate evidence-based practices.

Standard 14 on-site group: Henny Mbosowo (Collin County SOC) reported that his group identified the need for schools to be part of the conversation, the need to increase the participation of young people and families, and the need to find ways to include more representation/participation from community members and community agencies.

Agenda Item 7: Alliance for Adolescent Recovery and Treatment in Texas (AART-TX) Updates

Cristopher Burton (AART-TX), new project coordinator for the AART-TX initiative, updated CYBHS members on recent AART activities. Mr. Burton began by sharing that the Texas Institute for Excellence in Mental Health received a small grant from the Center for Youth Mental Health at Dell Medical School to implement SBIRT (Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment), an evidence-based practice to identify, engage, and refer young people to services to address substance use related issues.

Mr. Burton also shared that HHSC has finalized contracts with three of the four AART-TX providers and all providers have received training in the evidence-based assessment (GAIN, the Global Assessment of Individual Needs) and treatment (Seven Challenges). A follow-up training will be provided in January to establish local leaders/trainers in Seven Challenges. Ongoing coaching and technical assistance calls will be provided to help boost fidelity to the model.

Agenda Item 8: Youth Voice and Engagement Updates

David McClung reminded CYBHS members of Mitch Cochran's (CYBHS youth representative) challenge, "What can be done to try and have each agency have a youth representative at the table?" Mr. McClung facilitated a discussion on the question.

Suzanne Alley (HHSC) noted that location, transportation, and scheduling can be a barrier, especially if a young person is still in school. Dr. Robinson (TJJD) noted that she would want defined clear definition of the role and expectations for the youth position. Dr. Robinson indicated that she thought taking the meeting to the youth might be a better way to incorporate them into the conversation. Lauren Bledsoe (DFPS) would like to add a DFPS youth specialist to the group.

Barbara Granger (TxSOC) posed a question about the best meeting structure to incorporate the voices of the youth who attend. Verlyn Johnson (family representative) suggested that youth in residential treatment centers could share their experiences. Henny Mbosowo (Collin County SOC) advocated for having youth on the board to share how service delivery affects them and their perceptions and how having them at the table would enable us to learn from their perspectives.

Suzanne Alley (HHSC) asked Mr. McClung to send a list of the treatment centers or champions in Austin and noted that perhaps we should be holding this meeting at a school because the location of a governmental building may intimidate youth. Molly Lopez (TxSOC) stressed the relationship between adult members and young people is important and suggested that CYBHS look at the summer as a good time to try to include more young people in a meeting.

Mr. McClung updated members on ARTIFY (Austin), an art-inspired youth leadership event that will be held in the summer. He also described work on

developing ACCEPTanceships, which will be a peer-supported apprenticeship for young people interested in working in child-serving state agencies.

Agenda Item 9: Public Comment

No requests for public comments were received.

Agenda Item 10: Open Meeting Act Training

Kym Oltrogge (Associate Director of Policy, HHSC) provided CYBHS members with training (see attached) on the Open Meetings Act, noting that CYBHS is advisory in nature and complies with the Open Meetings Act by virtue of the CYBHS bylaws. Ms. Oltrogge underscored the importance of providing appropriate notice of meetings on HHSC website and including specific logistics such as date, hour, place, and subject of each issue. Members cannot conduct business during a meeting that is not described in the agenda, to allow the public the opportunity to participate. CYBHS members participating in the training will receive a certificate documenting completion.

Agenda Item 11: Next Steps

Members discussed potential agenda items for the next meeting. Lilly asked for information about the Children's Mental Health Awareness month activities. Other members asked for information about suicide prevention activities and how block grant funding is being used.

Agenda Item 12: Announcements

Next Meeting: January 9, 2019 at 10:00 am

The meeting adjourned at 2:45 pm.