

**Children and Youth Behavioral Health Subcommittee  
Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, July 11, 2018**

## **Agenda Item 1: Welcome and Introductions**

The Children and Youth Behavioral Health Subcommittee meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. with Barbara Granger (CYBHS co-chair) providing a welcome to the members. Glenn Dembowski (TIEMH) followed with a description of the Texas Open Meetings Act, providing directions for sign-in, microphones, housekeeping, and public comment processes. Members introduced themselves. Table 1 shows attendance for the meeting.

Table 1: CYBHS Subcommittee member attendance.

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

Yes: Indicates attended the meeting

No: Indicates did not attend the meeting

Attended Online: Kay Barkin, Christie DeSanto, Denise Magallanez, Leanne Lindsey, Julie Bourne, Linda Ramos-Perez, Glinda Schaffer, Josette Saxton

Also in attendance: Andrés Guariguata, Tracy Levins, Kaleigh Emerson, Jameson Cardenas, Shannon Moreno, Cory Jones, Glenn Dembowski, Trace Burks-Bell, Leela Rice, Sara Underwood, Demetria Alexander, Adrian Gaspar, Nidia Heston, Verlyn Johnson, Paul Playman, Anne Bondeson, Kamala Joy, Henny Mbosowo, Nancy Stanley, Alison Mohr Boleware, Richard Laker, Caren Zysk, Alexandra Noble, Tovah Woodson

## **Agenda Item 2: Family/Youth Experience**

Paul Playman shared his experience with sobriety and substance use disorder as a young person, as well as his experience working with young people in recovery.

Paul has been in and out of recovery for 9 years. Mr. Playman explained that he had a desire to be sober and once he had a support system present, he was able to shape his life to fit that desire. However, a lot of people don't have that the needed support. Mr. Playman shared that the hardest part of recovery is coming back from treatment and staying sober, finding a space you can fit in and flourish among peers and social influences.

Mr. Playman has worked with alternative peer groups (APG) since he's gotten sober, and it helps him stay sober. He does volunteer work an organization that provides a safe space for youth who want to experience recovery and learn life skills. The number one thing that he's seen have a positive effect on teenagers seeking recovery is being around other teenagers looking to do the same. Mr. Playman has personally experienced life changing results from this and has seen it in others. Mr. Playman says that giving young people the tools that they need can change lives.

Following his speech, Dr. Molly Lopez (Co-Chair, CYBHS) asked how agencies – particularly the state – can help in these efforts. Mr. Playman suggested provided funding and ensuring that these organizations have a solid infrastructure from which they can provide resources, counseling, etc.

Kamala Joy (Via Hope) asked if Paul could make suggestions for someone who was 17 and was seeking an APG. Paul suggested Keystone (in Austin), high schools that cater to kids who want to recover (specifically University High and Griffin School). Lastly, alternative peer groups like Teen and Family Services are strong in Houston. APGs are limited, which is why he believes more support is needed.

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

### **Minutes Review**

After quorum was reached, the minutes from the April 11, 2018 meeting were presented for review, modifications, and approval.

Lori Robinson (TJJD) noted that Marie Welsh is the official designated alternate for TJJD.

Tovah Woodson (HHSC) reported that Marisol Acosta has two candidates for NCTSN representatives, which is currently vacant.

*John Huffine (HHSC) made a motion to accept the minutes. Lori Robinson (TJJD) seconded the motion. Through vote of members, minutes were approved.*

### **Bylaw Subcommittee Recommendations and Amendment**

The Bylaws workgroup formed during the April 11 CYBHS meeting presented their recommendations to the full subcommittee for discussion.

Representing the Bylaws workgroup, Dr. Lopez recommended clarifying language related to officer terms, eligibility, and the voting process.

Points included a brief discussion of representatives of the initiatives that should be included in CYBHS members (e.g., substance abuse prevention), the growth in size of CYBHS membership, the potential need for clarity of the “categories” of initiatives, and the need to increase youth/family

membership long-term. Dr. Robinson offered additional language to add youth and family members to the nominating committee.

Motions were offered by Dr. Molly Lopez to accept the bylaws as modified by the discussion and John Huffine (HHSC) seconded the motion. Through vote of members, the bylaws (see attached) were approved.

After the vote, Lauren Bledsoe (DFPS) noted that other areas in the bylaws referred to "major initiatives" will need to change for consistency.

## **Announcements**

**Call for co-chair nominations.** With these changes to officers' terms being passed, Dr. Molly Lopez (Co-chair, CYBHS) indicated that the Nomination Workgroup will be seeking nominations for co-chair. A survey will be sent to members and stakeholders seeking self-nominations or nominations of others. Nominees will be presented for election at the October meeting.

**Call for 2019 System of Care Conference planning committee.** Dr. Lopez also announced that planning is set to begin for next System of Care Conference, which will be linked with the state CRCG training conference, scheduled in June of 2019. TIEMH will send out instructions on how to be part of the conference planning workgroup.

**Youth engagement "challenge."** In the last meeting on April 11, 2018, Mitch Cochran put a charge out to the group regarding youth engagement, challenging agencies to think about opportunities to bring youth in for mentorships, internships, etc. Since David and Mitch weren't able to attend this meeting, discussion will be held when they're present and able to facilitate.

## **Agenda Item 4: CYBHS Policy Recommendations**

Tracy Levins (TIEMH) reported that the Behavioral Health Advisory Committee (BHAC) adopted a new non-discrimination policy around discriminatory language. This document will be emailed to members. Another document will be included on destigmatizing language for substance use disorder (SUD). Examples mentioned include "negative/positive" test vs. "clean/dirty" and "person with SUD" vs. "alcoholic, addict, etc."

In David McClung's absence, Dr. Levins represented the workgroup established by CYBHS to explore policy recommendations related to school mental health policies and treatment. She reported that the workgroup had met once to begin its work and would meet again before bringing recommended policies to CYBHS for discussion.

Dr. Levins closed by sharing that the Alliance for Adolescent Recovery and Treatment in Texas (AART) POP-AART youth engagement (Providing Opportunities for Partnership) occurred the evening of July 10. Her team will review the recommendations offered by young people to improve substance use treatment and recovery services and supports and will use that information to inform AART-TX's comprehensive strategic plan.

## **Agenda Item 5: Collin County System of Care Implementation**

Henny Mbosowa (LifePath Systems) provided an update on system of care (SOC) in Collin County. Slides were provided.

Mr. Mbosow began with an overview of the demographic makeup of the county and the framework of their SOC grant along with details regarding eligible participants and SOC values. Collin County's goals for SOC include reducing recidivism, reducing lengths of stay for out of home placements, and improving the continuity of care and collaboration amongst child serving agencies. Mr. Mbosowo went on to share how LifePath Systems plans to implement SOC, which include ensuring wraparound principles start from family voice and choice and formation of a governance board. Mr. Mbosowo also shared challenges of forming a governance board in Collin County, including not initially being hired for this position, not knowing where or how to start, resistance from ISDs to talk about mental health, and SOC being a "foreign language." Despite this, governance board members have made great strides and are equipped with resources and engaged.

Collin County SOC progress to date includes having three trained wraparound facilitator/care coordinators and a new hire; 19 individuals in wraparound services; multiple referrals; bi-weekly TA call with TxSOC; and much more. Challenges include struggles getting in contact with referred families, not having a youth voice representative on the governance board, and a large geographic area to cover.

## **Agenda Item 6: Collaboration between the Community Resource Coordination Groups and the Texas System of Care**

Lillian Nguyen (HHSC) and Sara Underwood, State CRCG Coordinator, gave a presentation on collaboration between the Community Resource Coordination Groups (CRCG) and the Texas System of Care (TxSOC). Slides were provided in the packet.

Ms. Nguyen began with background information including TxSOC major grant projects. To provide some of the services within these projects (i.e., extended family services, wraparound, etc.), HHSC is contracting with LMHAs Burke and LifePath Systems. In these contracts, grantees are developing local systems of care in their respective counties, with a contract requirement to include CRCG chairs on their governance boards. A new memorandum of understanding signed by six state agencies outlines the responsibilities that each agency has to carry out implementing their system of care, including collaboration with CRCGs.

Ms. Underwood followed this with an overview on what CRCGs are, including the purpose, supports offered (serving adults, children and families who have multiagency needs and whose needs cannot be met by a single agency), and CRCG history. Ms. Nguyen then provided details on ways CRCGs and TxSOC can work together including:

- Using data at the individual and community levels to drive change processes
- Utilizing the SOC community governance to fill resource gaps identified by CRCGs with an emphasis on community-based services

Ms. Nguyen went on to explain how CRCGs and systems of care share benefits of working together through a shared vision and values as well as complimentary work and services. Ms. Underwood followed with steps to move forward in this partnership to align CRCG and system of care, including placement of the other in each entities' MOU, shared language, coordination of outreach and more. The presentation ended with time for questions and comments.

## **Agenda Item 7: Paving the Way Closeout Report**

Nancy Stanley (Paving the Way) and Valencia Gensollen (Family Connection of Tarrant County) shared this presentation on the accomplishments and impacts made during Paving the Way's grant, which has now come to an end. Slides were included in packet.

Ms. Stanley started her presentation with background on the multiple system of care (SOC) grant origins in the Tarrant County area (this is the county's third SOC grant). Paving the Way served youth 16-21 with a mental health diagnosis, using the TIP approach (Transition to Independent Process). Results included working with 120 youth over four years, meeting grant goals. Ms. Stanley discussed more about the program process including challenges and positive outcomes through SOC. A diagram of changes from initial intake to most recent follow-up highlighted positive outcomes. Key to this work was a youth engagement coordinator to ensure that youth and families had someone there to guide them through difficult times. Although there were scary moments, it was noted that there were no completed suicides throughout the duration of their work, which could be attributed to staff going above and beyond.

Ms. Gensollen then presented on Family Connection of Tarrant County (FCTC), the family-run organization in Tarrant County. She began with background information on the organization including its need-based origins in their community which led to their formation as a shared leadership group. Members serve on various boards and advisory committees, and FCTC also holds monthly workshops where they identify family leaders to take on roles to make system change through their lived experience. TCTC is also proud to hold a mental health awareness day festival in Tarrant County, and Ms. Gensollen discussed the community support and agency representation made possible with these events. She recommended that individuals interested in holding an awareness day event visit Austin's Children's Mental Health Awareness Day activities. Ms. Gensollen concluded by noting that participation in FCTC also made statewide involvement possible, where members are able to emphasize family voice in state events and mentor others interested in advocacy and leadership.

Ms. Stanley concluded the presentation by highlighting Paving the Way's collaborations to provide branding, websites, resources, etc. to community

systems of care in the region. The presentation ended with time for questions.

## **Agenda Item 8: Using the Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services Standards**

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

## **Agenda Item 9: Public Comment**

No requests for public comment were received.

## **Agenda Item 10: Public Information Act Training**

A one-hour training on the Public Information Act was presented by Jonathan Miles, Open Records Attorney for HHSC. Slides were included in the packet.

## **Agenda Item 11: Next Steps**

The October meeting will include Agenda Item 8, as well as a follow-up discussion on youth engagement and mentoring activities.

## **Agenda Item 12: Announcements**

Next Meeting: October 10, 2018 at 10:00 am

The meeting adjourned at 2:55 pm.