

NOVEMBER 9, 2023 – SUMMARY

This meeting focused on discussing various behavioral health and substance use issues, HFPD presenting data analysis update for BHC Data through 8/31/2023, and potential future directions for addressing concerns identified through the discussion.

Links: [Meeting Packet](#) and [Video; Webpage for other BHC resources and information](#).

ATTENDEES AND UPDATES

- David Carlbom, Medical Program Director, Jefferson County EMS: Discussed the Northwest region EMS pilot and Narcan dose distribution. Highlighted team management complexities and the creation of a resource card for pre-hospital providers.
- Cherish Chronmiller (Olympic Community Action Programs): Addressed funding challenges for supportive housing services and shelter staffing needs.
- Jolene Kron (SBH-ASO): Mentioned administrative changes and development of the Salish Network Collaborative program, and the availability of naloxone and 10 vending machines they are working to place.
- Commissioner Brotherton (Jefferson County Commissioner): Indicated interest in ongoing transitions, no specific update.
- Brett Anglin (GCS): Alerted to an issue with data that needs review.
- Yvonne Owyen (Community of Health): Attended to listen and understand ongoing activities.
- Chief McKern: Discussed Narcan boxes and coordination with partners.
- Cassidy (Healthcare Representative): No significant updates to share.
- Anne Dean (Discovery Behavioral Health Care): Announced a new website for the organization.
- Anya Callahan (Jefferson County Public Health): Focused on harm reduction coordinating and Narcan box distribution.
- Laurie Tinker (Chair of the EMS Council): No data to report.
- Jim Novelli (Discovery Behavioral Health): Did not provide a specific update.
- Lisa Grundl: Working on data analysis and addressing potential errors in the data.
- Barb Jones (Jefferson County Public Health, CHIP program): Attended the meeting.
- Adam York (Healthcare Representative): No relevant updates to provide.
- Gabbie Caudill (Clinical Director, Believe in Recovery):
- Lindsey Scalf (JCPH - Youth Empowerment Coalition): Mentioned hosting a parenting workshop.
- Rebecca Marriott (Therapeutic Course Coordinator): Attended the meeting.

FUTURE BHC FUNDING

- Lori noted Opioid Settlement funds (\$896,804 over 16 years) are still working their way from SBH-ASO to BOCC for approval, after which DBH will pass through to support an independent BHC.
- Lori presented a potential Grant Opportunity: Consideration of a \$100,000 Rural Health Network Development program development grant.

DATA DISCUSSION HIGHLIGHTS

Overall, the data discussion in the meeting underscored the need for reliable data collection and analysis methods to understand and respond effectively to behavioral health challenges in the community. The highlights point towards a growing awareness of mental health issues and the importance of accurate data in shaping community health responses.

Variation in Behavioral Health Encounters

- The meeting highlighted significant monthly variations in behavioral health encounters across different organizations.
- This variation might be influenced by several factors, including seasonal changes, policy shifts, or changes in community needs.
- The inconsistency in the data suggests a complex and dynamic nature of behavioral health issues within the community.

Increase in Mental Health Calls

- There was a notable increase in calls related to mental health issues.
- This trend indicates a rising need for mental health services and could reflect greater community awareness or a growing prevalence of mental health conditions.
- The data could also suggest changes in how incidents are reported or categorized, highlighting a shift in focus towards mental health in the community's health services.

Data Coding and Accuracy

- Concerns were raised about the accuracy and consistency of data coding, especially in emergency medical services and law enforcement data.
- The discussion acknowledged the challenges in coding behavioral health and substance use encounters accurately, given the complexity of these situations.
- Ensuring accurate data coding is crucial for effective analysis and understanding the true nature of behavioral health issues in the community.

Importance of Detailed Data Analysis

- The meeting emphasized the necessity of detailed data analysis to gain a comprehensive understanding of behavioral health issues.
- Detailed analysis helps in identifying trends, understanding the impact of different interventions, and planning for future needs.
- Accurate and detailed data analysis is essential for formulating effective policies and strategies to address behavioral health and substance use disorders in the community.

NEXT STEPS**Data Workgroup**

- Clarification and Verification of Data: Verify and clarify presented data, especially behavioral health-related calls.
- Consistent Data Coding: Establish a consistent coding approach across agencies.
- Addressing Data Gaps: Investigate and address gaps in data collection.
- Collaborative Efforts for Data Collection: Explore collaborative and technological solutions.
- Ongoing Data Review: Regular data reviews to monitor trends.

Future Funding

- Endeavor to pull together a subset of BHC Members as a network to apply for the RHNDP-P grant.
- Track Opioid Settlement Funding dollars getting to DBH.