Attendees

Chief Bret Black, East Jefferson Fire Rescue

Dunia Faulx, Jefferson Healthcare

Gabbie Caudill, Clinical Director, Recovery and Gateway to Freedom

Barb Jones, Jefferson County Public Health, CHIP Program Manager

Dr. David Carlbom, Medical Program Director, Jefferson County

Brian Richardson, Recovery Café, Dove House

Tammy Ridgway, Medical Service Officer, East Jefferson Fire Rescue

Jim Novelli, DBH, Discovery Behavioral Healthcare

Dan Taylor CFO, Discovery Behavioral Healthcare

Chief Tom Olson, Port Townsend Police Department

Jolene Kron, SBH-ASO

Lori Fleming, Facilitator

MEETING OVERVIEW

The BHC Voting Members and JCPCCC members convened for a discussion on the Co-Responder Outreach Alliance grant opportunity, a session initiated by Dunia Faulx's proposal to unify the group's understanding and bolster support for EJFR's ultimate go/no-go decision.

Outcome: The stakeholders present understand EJFR has tentatively decided against pursuing the CORA Grant, prioritizing the stabilization and sustainability of the existing CARES program. The discussion allowed the group to calibrate their understanding of how the CORA opportunity could align with or challenge EJFR's current resources and projects. The group acknowledged the value of supporting EJFR's existing priorities and the CARES program's sustainability before embarking on new initiatives.

DISCUSSION NOTES

- Chief Bret Black detailed the fire department's perspective, noting the grant's alignment with fire department-centric initiatives but highlighted EJFR's hesitance to expand or add new initiatives without stable funding for the existing CARES program. He noted the CARES program currently has a shortfall over $100,000. The program must secure new funding or consider reducing services.

- Gabbie Caudill noted the grant's challenges, given its detailed requirements that three firefighter EMS personnel be trained as trainers in an eight-hour behavioral health training, and required that each awarded department host two regional behavioral health trainings during 2025 to a minimum of 20 responders and CO responders.

- Dunia Faulx suggested exploring the grant's third bullet point about integrating a follow-up response unit with the 988 crisis hub. She proposed a simple agreement between Chief Black and Jim to add referrals from the Crisis Response System to the CARES program within 2-4 days, enhancing integration without significant stretch, given the existing efforts. This approach could potentially unlock $150,000 in funding.

- Chief Black acknowledged the extra work required beyond just training three EMTs as trainers, as Dunia suggested. He emphasized that the CARES team is already stretched thin, unable to meet current demands, and thus cannot expand its role further. The primary focus remains on stabilizing and securing sustainable funding for the CARES program, rather than pursuing new initiatives, even though the idea holds merit for future consideration.

- Lori inquired about the feasibility of gathering the data outlined in the CROA's requirements, even if EJFR did not pursue the grant, in light of the current data practices within the CARES program and other initiatives.

- Chief Black highlighted OCH's leadership in data metrics and initiatives, aligning with programs like CARES. He noted the challenge of grant data collection across four funders just on the CARES program has lessened with EJFR's improved data practices. General efforts towards standardization, driven by OCH's guidelines, is making data management increasingly feasible.

- Lori noted the BHC/JCPCCC's value of standardized, robust data practices to enhance and demonstrate program effectiveness of collaborative initiatives, whether in our county or across the region.

MEETING AGENDA

Welcome and Brief Overview (5 minutes)

Rapid Stakeholder Insights (10 minutes)

- Each stakeholder provides a brief insight into their interest in the grant and potential impact on their services. This will be a quick round-robin session without detailed discussions.

Identifying Shared Goals (10 minutes)

- Discussion to quickly highlight shared interests and potential areas for collaboration among the stakeholders. Focus on high-level themes

Brainstorming and Next Steps (10 minutes)

- A brief, focused brainstorming session where stakeholders quickly suggest ideas for collaboration that align with the grant's objectives.

- Immediate discussion on the next steps

- Set a date for a more detailed follow-up meeting.

Wrap-Up and Commitments (5 minutes)

Quick summarization of key points and collaborative ideas identified during the meeting.

Stakeholders express their commitment to the next steps and the collaborative effort.