



Dear Consortium Members,

As we embark on the journey to establish a governance framework for the Jefferson County Behavioral Health Consortium (BHC), it is vital to reflect on our collective mission, values, and the unique attributes that each member brings to our shared endeavor. The development of a robust governance structure is foundational to our success in addressing the intertwined challenges of opioid use and mental health within our community. This document serves as a starting point for our discussions and the articulation of our shared decision-making processes.

UNDERSTANDING OUR COLLECTIVE IDENTITY

Our Mission and Vision

- **Mission:** To collaboratively enhance prevention, treatment, and recovery services for opioid use and mental health in Jefferson County, ensuring comprehensive support for all community members.
- **Vision:** A community where every resident has timely access to effective behavioral health services, leading to improved overall well-being.

Our Values

- **Collaboration:** Working together across diverse sectors to articulate and achieve common goals.
- **Compassion:** Prioritizing the dignity and well-being of those affected by opioid use and mental health issues.
- **Transparency:** Ensuring open and honest communication within the consortium.
- **Accountability:** Being responsible for our actions and their impact on the community.
- **Inclusivity:** Valuing and integrating diverse perspectives and experiences.

Our Unique Attributes

- **Diverse Expertise:** Our consortium is composed of healthcare and relevant service providers, First Responders including law enforcement and Emergency Management Services (EMS), judicial representatives, government officials, and community-based organizations. This diversity is our strength, allowing us to approach the opioid and mental health challenges from multiple angles.
- **Community Focus:** We are deeply rooted in eastern Jefferson County, understanding the unique needs and strengths of our geographically diverse communities, and are dedicated to providing services that are relevant and accessible throughout the east county's rural and frontier areas.
- **Unified Purpose:** Despite our varied backgrounds, we are united in our commitment to improve the behavioral health system and support our residents.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS FOR DEVELOPING OUR GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK



Defining Roles and Responsibilities

- Clearly outlining the roles of the Steering Committee, Executive Director, and Working Groups.
- Ensuring that each member understands their responsibilities and how they contribute to our collective goals.

Establishing Decision-Making Processes

- Developing fair and transparent processes for making decisions, prioritizing consensus, and utilizing majority voting when necessary.
- Ensuring that all voices are heard and valued in the decision-making process.

Creating Mechanisms for Accountability and Evaluation

- Setting clear [metrics and goals](#) to measure our progress and impact.
- Regularly evaluating our initiatives and adapting our strategies based on data and community feedback.

Fostering Effective Communication and Collaboration

- Implementing regular meetings and communication channels to facilitate information sharing and collaboration.
- Encouraging active participation and engagement from all members.

Pursuing and Managing Funding

- Ensuring that grant funding pursuits involve multiple stakeholders for diverse representation.
- Establishing procedures for voting on grant applications and managing funds transparently and efficiently.

Building Flexibility for Future Needs

- Allowing for amendments and appendices to adapt to changing circumstances and evolving needs.
- Creating a governance structure that can grow and change with the consortium.

Identifying and Recruiting New Members

- Establishing criteria for identifying new members who can contribute to the consortium's mission.
- Actively recruiting individuals and organizations that bring diverse perspectives and expertise to enhance our collective impact.
- Ensuring a transparent process for the approval of new members by the Steering Committee.

GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

Steering Committee (See [draft member role description](#))

- **Composition:** Comprises representatives from healthcare and relevant service providers, First Responders including law enforcement and Emergency Management Services (EMS), judicial representatives, government officials, and community-based organizations. This diversity is our strength, allowing us to approach opioid and mental health challenges from multiple angles.
- **Responsibilities:** Guides overall strategy, sanctions initiatives, manages finances, and assesses progress.

Executive Director (See [draft Executive Director role description](#))

- **Role:** Directs daily operations, connects the Steering Committee with Working Groups, and implements strategic goals. (See draft role description.)
- **Selection:** Appointed by **??County BOCC? ?Steering Committee?**

Working Groups (See [draft Work Group Member role description](#))

- **Formation:** Established around focal areas determined by the Consortium members (ex. Projects related to: Data Collection and Analysis; needs assessment, strategy development, and strategy implementation around substance use disorder (SUD) Prevention, Treatment, Recovery; integrated Mental Health service delivery, etc.)
- **Functions:** Spearhead specific projects, provide counsel to the Steering Committee, and mobilize community involvement.

Decision-Making

- Prioritizes consensus within the Steering Committee, facilitated by the Executive Director.
- Employs majority voting to resolve impasses.


Membership

- Open to committed organizations and individuals.
- Subject to Steering Committee approval.

Meetings

- **Steering Committee Members required**, with invitation also extended Ad Hoc Group participants: Quarterly meetings, plus additional meetings as required. **Develop a stated policy for non-attendance.**
- **Working Groups:** As determined by each group's needs. **Develop a stated policy for non-attendance.**
- **Full Consortium:** Yearly convening for all stakeholders to review progress and strategize.

Amendments, Appendices, and Grant Funding

 Proposed amendments must be submitted in writing to the Steering Committee and need a two-thirds majority for approval.

- **Appendices:** Future appendices, including data-sharing agreements, will detail protocols for secure, ethical information exchange and adapt with the consortium's evolving needs.
- **Grant Funding:** Pursuit of grant funding by the consortium will always involve multiple stakeholders to ensure diverse representation and perspectives. Any grant application must be approved by a vote among the voting members, ensuring collective agreement and support.

Ratification

- This Governance document requires ratification by a majority vote from stakeholders at a designated meeting.

Date of Ratification: [To be determined]

This governance framework is designed to unite the County BHC's efforts in addressing opioid use and mental health challenges, guaranteeing that Jefferson County's behavioral health services are accessible, comprehensive, and collaborative.

We look forward to your valuable input and active participation in this critical process.

Initial approach to governance document developed by Lori Fleming in collaboration with?