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

- **V1: 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.
- **V2: Mission:** To strategize and drive investments through local initiatives, such as the Behavioral Health Advisory Committee (BHAC), while collaboratively reducing stigma and enhancing prevention, treatment, and recovery services for individuals with behavioral health disorders in Jefferson County, ensuring comprehensive support for all community members.

- **V1: Vision:** A community where every resident has timely access to effective behavioral health services, leading to improved overall well-being.
- **V2: Vision**: A community where every resident has timely access to effective behavioral health services

Our Values

- **Collaboration:** Working together across diverse sectors to articulate and achieve common goals.
- **Compassion:** Prioritizing the dignity and well-being of those impacted 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 behavioral health challenges from multiple angles.

Commented [1]: Glad to see prevention noted. Perhaps stigma might be included.

Commented [2]: I like the concise nature of both the Mission and vision. Jim

Commented [3]: Joe Nole - I Agree with Dunia on expand to include all substance use
1 total reaction
Barb Jones reacted with 👍 at 2024-08-08 16:15 PM

Commented [4]: I like the concise and direct nature of the vision and mission.

Commented [5]: _Marked as resolved_

Commented [6]: _Re-opened_

Commented [7]: I am curious about the mission being direct service based vs or in addition to strategy to help drive investments through other local tables (i.e. BHAC). Is there a way to word this so it includes both

Commented [8]: I would like to explore this more deeply ;)

Commented [9]: I wonder if it is time to expand this beyond opioid use to all substance use. I agree with Dr. C's comments - what about recovery services for persons with behavioral health disorders or s'thing like that.
1 total reaction
David Carlbom reacted with 👍 at 2024-08-08 16:14 PM

Commented [10]: Person-first language? "Persons with opiod use d/o & persons w/ mental health illness."

Commented [11]: To me, a vision statement is a view of how the world should be because of your work. It should be short (i.e., one sentence), and also inspiring, memorable, and able to remain unchanged for 100 years.

Maybe drop the final section "leading to...".

Or go completel BHAG and say something like "eliminate suffering caused by behavioral health disease"

Commented [12]: Jim I also agree with expanding beyond opioid

- **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. (NOTE: *Perhaps add empathy to include peers.?*)
- **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 number of and roles of the Steering Committee members (Note: or sector roles represented?), Executive Director, Working Groups, and general membership. (Notes: Clarify voting rights; clarify *non-traditional meetings & voting (i.e. distant in time/space), a need some minimum attendance to be engaged and a voting partner in the work; voting members should have "skin in the game" - i.e. be JeffCo-only orgs, rather than state-wide or national. Craft a phrase that leaves open possibilities of other organizations/sector we haven't thought of … definitely include faith-based org representation.)*
- Ensuring that each member understands their responsibilities and how they contribute to our collective goals. (Note: Add a process for sending a delegate and voting by absentia process?)

Establishing Decision-Making Processes

- Developing fair and transparent processes for making decisions, prioritizing consensus, and utilizing majority voting when necessary. (Note: explore dynamic of being organizational representatives vs. sector representatives.)
- 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

Commented [13]: Perhaps add empathy to include peers.

Commented [14]: What about the west end?

Commented [15]: Bret, Could we please add some process for sending a delegate? Plus a vote by absentia process?

Commented [16]: Shouldn't we have roles of the steering committee as well as general membership? The voting rights is still a bit question in my mind.

Commented [17]: Agree clear roles for voting members vs. consulting experts, etc...   voting members should have clear "skin in the game", i.e. be Jefferson County only organizations rather than state-wide, or national...

Commented [18]: Is there a cap on the number of steering committee members or a list of sector roles that are specifically represented

Commented [19]: Interesting dynamic of being organizational representatives and not sector representatives.

- 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, including the community/population voice.
- 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.
- Note: How to address the separation of the work of the BHC with the work of the individual agencies - the current scenario has shaped up to be "working board"...)

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.) (Note: add yearly community meeting
- **Selection:** Appointed by ??County BOCC? ?Steering Committee? (Note: Steering Committee conducts annual reviews of ED and any disciplinary action. Where does DBH as fiscal agent fit in?)

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

Commented [20]: Agree with Dr. Carlbom - putting room in here for the community/population voice.

Commented [21]: 👍

Commented [22]: My work on the steering committee has been much more of a "working board" type - how to separate out the work of the BHC with the work of individual agencies is still messy.

Commented [23]: good point....

Commented [24]: Jim agree

Commented [25]: Joe Nole - I vote for appointment by the Steering Committee.

Commented [26]: Agree

Commented [27]: I agree with appointment by steering committee, and of course think Lori is doing incredible work. But if we had another ED and that person was not as incredible, should the steering committee also be responsible for annual reviews/disciplinary action? Where does the fiscal agent come in (DBH)?

- Prioritizes consensus within the Steering Committee, facilitated by the Executive Director.(Note: How to gather community input and encourage community involvement?)
- Employs majority voting to resolve Steering Committee impasses.

Membership

- Open to committed organizations and individuals. (Notes: Within the boundaries of Jefferson county or immediately involved? Possible inclusion of firefighter union and law enforcement union to get boots on the ground perspective…?)
- Subject to Steering Committee approval. (note: Bocc Appointment made from recommendations from a nominating committee?)

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. Meeting materials to be sent 24 hours prior to meetings. (Note: *Agree non-traditional meetings & voting (i.e. distant in time/space), yet also need some minimum attendance to be engaged and a partner in the work. Another NOTE: Expand on the intent of a policy for non-attendance? When working with emergency services, it can be challenging to make all meetings. Can we develop a vote by absentia process?)*
- **Working Groups:** Steering Committee members are required; others 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.
- Annual Public/Community Meeting to communicate mission, accomplishments, next steps. (Could also extend to provide this content at Board of Health, BoCC and City Council meetings?)

Commented [28]: Make specific mention of ways for the community to have input and be involved.

Commented [29]: I assume this is of the steering committee members

Commented [30]: This needs more clarification.

Commented [31]: I wonder about including firefighter union & law enforcement union to be sure to capture "boots on the ground" perspective .... not sure how to do that for other agencies

Commented [32]: BOCC appointment from recommendations from a nominating committee?

Commented [33]: Within the boundaries of Jefferson county or immediately involved.

Commented [34]: Bret: Can we have materials at least 24 hours before meetings? Thanks

Commented [35]: Yearly public meeting / community meeting to show the amazing work that is done?

Commented [36]: Can you please expand on the intent? When working with emergency services, it can be challenging to make all meetings. Can we develop a vote by absentia process?

Commented [37]: Sorry, this is Bret

Commented [38]: Agree non-traditional meetings & voting (i.e. distant in time/space), but I also thin need som eminimum attendance to be engaged and a partner in the work.

Commented [39]: Jim attendance by steering cmte members is critical

Commented [40]: Agreed

Commented [41]: Jim attendance by steering cmte members is critical

Commented [42]: Agreed

Commented [43]: I agree with an absent voting process.