



POLK COUNTY CRIMINAL JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL

BEHAVIOR HEALTH SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Date: April 18, 2024

Time: 8:30 a.m.

Location: Polk County Behavioral Health & Disability Services (River Place)

MEMBERS PRESENT: Annie Uetz (BHDS), Lorna Garcia (DMPD), Danielle Baily (5th IDOC), Alyssa Wilson (Altoona PD), Rachel Adams (BHDS), Teresa Bomhoff (MindSpring), Gabbie Ruggiero (BHDS), Tracy Gyrp (Full Circle Recovery), Patrick Coughlin (Bridges), Jerry Evans (CJCC).

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

GUESTS: None

ACTIVITY:

1. Meeting called to order by Chair Garcia.
2. Chair Garcia proposed, that for now, this subcommittee focus on substance use disorders given their relationship with behavioral health. The group unanimously agreed.

INFORMATION:

Follow-Up: Discussion regarding the status of the Federal Medicaid Waiver in Iowa for justice involved individuals.

- a. Current law is as follows:
 - i. Medicaid is not available to individuals' considered inmates of public, non-medical institutions. This would also include individuals who are residents of community-based corrections facilities.
- b. It is understood that Iowa HHS has expressed an interest in applying for the Federal Medicaid Waiver for inmates and those in community-based corrections residential facilities, but to-date, HHS has not developed a policy, nor applied for the federal waiver.
- c. Patrick Coughlin indicated the individuals in the Bridges program at the Polk County Jail do qualify for Medicaid, however, it's a rigorous process to get individuals approved through the State's MCO's.

TOPICS OF DISCUSSION: Substance Use Disorder Focus

- a. **Detoxification Options (specifically 3.5 level inpatient care)**
 - i. Barriers – one of the barriers for detoxification is that in order to be admitted to a program, the patient needs to be sober.
 - ii. There are currently only 14 beds available for medical detoxification in the Des Moines area. Medicaid coverage allows for a 14-day residency.

- iii. There are no specific programs/facilities for methamphetamine or opioid detoxification, just alcohol.
- iv. The closest detoxification program for opioid/methamphetamine is Ivory Plains in Adair, Iowa. (4.0 level of care)

SOBERING OPTIONS

- a. The Polk County Sobering Center (not the official name) is slated to open in the Fall of 2024.
- b. The schematic layout of the facility was shared along with a discussion of community providers/services that will be associated with the sobering center. These include:
 - i. St. Vincent de Paul – sobering center
 - ii. Broadlawns Medical Center – COC (Crisis Observation Center) & BHUC (Behavioral Health Urgent Care)
- c. It is expected that, on average, five (5) individuals per day will receive sobering services. The length of stay is expected to last between 4-6 hours.
- d. Discussed the goals and mission of the sobering center.

NEXT STEPS

- 1. Discussed inviting guests to the subcommittee meetings to help provide clarity and information regarding topics of interests. Examples included possibly inviting Director Liz Matney to one of the meetings, or one of the MCO representatives.

Closing:

- 1. Meeting adjourned at 9:45 a.m.