



**BEHAVIORAL HEALTH REDESIGN STEERING COMMITTEE (BHRSC)  
Minutes – August 19, 2021**

**Call to Order.** Chair Luster called the meeting of the Behavioral Health Redesign Steering Committee to order via teleconference at 12:18 P.M.

**Committee Members Present:** Supervisor Louis Peer, Dr. Kenneth Robbins, Tim Perry, Linda Scott Hoag, Michelle Rose-Barajas, Tricia Murray, Shelly Osmond, Ryan Trautsch, Samantha Palan, **Ryan Turner (alt. for Samantha Wellnitz)**, Laura Neece, and Greg Winkler.

**Committee Members Absent:** Deputy Chief Todd Kleisner, Lindsay Stevens, Kate Luster, Tamara Lalor, Billy Bob Grahn, Don Knight, Kelsey Cordova, Commander Erik Chellevold, Patty Slatter and Ian Hedges.

**Staff Members Present:** Becky Huber, HSD Coordinator of Prevention and Community Engagement; Elizabeth Pohlman McQuillen, Justice System Manager.

**Others Present:** Judge Karl Hanson.

Co-Chair Neece started with an icebreaker activity to have committee members introduce themselves.

**Approval of Agenda.** Supervisor Peer moved approval of the agenda as presented, second by Mr. Winkler. ADOPTED.

**Approval of Minutes of May 20, 2021.** Ms. Neece moved approval of the minutes of May 20, 2021, as presented, second by Mr. Perry. ADOPTED.

**Discussion of Survey Monkey responses and future direction of BHRSC.** Co-Chair Rose-Barajas went over the responses received on the survey. She said if anyone has any other thoughts to email them. The co-chairs will go over the responses and come up with a plan for the future direction of the BHRSC to present at the next meeting in November.

**Discussion about ongoing COVID impact on behavioral health services, including status of vaccinations for behavioral health providers.** The Janesville School District has made masks optional at school. At Craig there are over capacity and are setting things up like a normal school year with class sizes capped at 32. The Beloit School District is requiring masks for all and are doing full in-person learning. Mercy is still doing telehealth at least 50% of the time and that may increase. Many providers expressed difficulty recruiting behavioral health providers which is leading to access to care issues. Crossroads is still doing 75-80% face-to-face. They have had fully vaccinated staff test positive for COVID. Beloit Counseling Care is doing 60-70% telehealth. The County has reinstated a mask mandate for County facilities.

**Discussion regarding COVID-related funding coming into the county for behavioral health-related needs.** Mr. Winkler said HSD has been using SAMHSA COVID funds for housing and peer support and that the money is rather flexible for these purposes. He said about \$100,000 has

been spent on housing. One grant is ending and another will be in effect until at least May 2022 to continue funding housing and peer support services. These can be accessed through the Crisis Unit. Mr. Winkler said other COVID funding coming to the county still does not have much clarity.

**Discussion regarding state budget initiatives related to behavioral health.** Mr. Winkler said there were four areas of note in the state budget: (1) increases in Medicaid reimbursement starting January 1<sup>st</sup>; (2) residential treatment room and board rates; (3) money for a pilot project for crisis receiving facilities; and (4) a telehealth policy for medical assistance (whereby audio only will be covered; patients and providers don't have to be in the office; and the reimbursement will be the same as in-person).

**Discussion regarding updates to Chapter 75.** Mr. Winkler said it passed through the legislative review process and is now with the LRB. It should be published in 2-3 months and there will be a transition period of a year to get into compliance.

**Updates on Groups Associated with BHRSC.**

**Behavioral Health Providers.** Mr. Winkler said this group has moved to meeting every other month and will next meet in September.

**Prevention.** Ms. Huber said the prevention network and HSD is doing a community assessment on substance misuse and have hired a consultant. It will focus on youth and adults across the whole county. They anticipate the report to be done in March 2022. Rock for Recovery is October 14<sup>th</sup>. The coalitions have been doing environmental scans on Delta 8.

**Consumer Voice.** None.

**Success Stories/Positive Outcomes.** None.

**Citizen Participation and Announcements.** None.

**Future Meeting Date:** Thursday, November 18, 2021, 12:00 P.M., Location TBD

**Adjournment.** The meeting adjourned by acclimation at 12:57p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Pohlman McQuillen,  
Justice System Manager

**NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY COMMITTEE.**