

MINUTES

Mental Health Advisory /Local Alcohol and Drug Planning Committee
Lane County BHS, Room 198
2411 MLK, Jr. Blvd., Eugene OR

March 16, 2016
2:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Teresa Kintigh, Chair; Michele Tantriella-Modell, Vice-Chair; Mx Fabry, Michael Kwiatkowski, José E. Soto-Gates, Susanna Sammis, Renée Van Norman, DK Stotler, Lee Anne Wichmann and Kevin Wiles, members; Diana Avery, Carla Ayres, Shanda Miller, Andrea Muzikant, Lisa Nichols, staff; Lucy Zammarelli, Trillium Behavioral Health; Pat Farr, Lane County Commissioner; Danielle Hanson, Lane County Circuit Court; Matt Lowen, Eugene Police Department (EPD); Susan Harrison, Cory Hoover, Veterans Administration (VA).

ABSENT: Andrea Brown, Scott Lemons, members.

Prior to the meeting, Diana Avery distributed revised copies of the *Mental Health Advisory/Local Alcohol and Drug Planning Committee Bylaws*.

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

Teresa Kintigh called the meeting of the Mental Health Advisory/Local Alcohol and Drug Planning Committee (MHA/LADPC) to order at 2:35 p.m.

1.1 Introductions

Committee members and guests introduced themselves.

1.2 Approval of the February 17, 2016 Minutes

Michael Kwiatkowski moved, seconded by Mx Fabry, to approve the February 17, 2016 minutes as submitted. The motion passed unanimously, 10:0.

2.0 PUBLIC INPUT

No members of the public present wished to address the committee.

3.1 ADDICTIONS MANAGER'S REPORT

Carla Ayres said the Methadone Clinic now served an additional forty people. However the waiting list continued to grow. She was working to set up a catchment service for an additional twenty people. When José Soto-Gates asked how long treatment took, Ms. Ayres explained it varied. The average was one to five years. Ms. Ayres also said she was conducting second interviews for the Methadone Clinic Supervisor position.

3.2 MHS MANAGER'S REPORT

Ms. Ayres announced Lane County had been awarded grants for the Jail Intercept program and crises services. The Oregon Health Authority had conducted a review and made five small findings. Overall, the review was positive.

Lucy Zammarelli arrived at the meeting at 2:42 p.m.

Lisa Nichols added the Behavioral Services Division was expanding the clinical staff, possibly including a new Forensics Supervisor position. Two psychiatrists were leaving (one was moving out-of-county, the other did not adjust easily to the newly implemented electronic health records system) and recruitment to fill the positions had begun. Answering questions from Susanna Sammis and Mr. Soto-Gates as to how many psychiatrists there were and if any were bi-lingual, Ms. Ayres explained there were 5.5 full-time equivalent positions, including a Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner, representing 6 individual providers. At the present time, there was one who was bi-lingual. When Ms. Fabry asked if the posting included specialization in autism spectrum disorder, Ms. Ayres explained the job postings were more general and a person's specialties were discussed during interviews.

3.3 DD MANAGER'S REPORT

Andrea Muzikant described the re-assignment of cases to three case management teams: one for clients up to age fifteen; the second for those sixteen to twenty-four; and the third for people twenty-five and older. She shared bi-lingual staff person Amy Bray had been recognized by ARC of Lane County as the Professional of the Year. The Board of County Commissioners (BCC) would do so at an upcoming meeting. Ms. Muzikant reminded the Committee March was Developmental Disabilities Awareness month. She invited people to come to the Public Service Building and see the material assembled there and noted local television station, KVAL, planned an interview with Robert, one of the panelists at last month's meeting.

4.0 OLD BUSINESS

4.0 a. Employment First Initiative

Ms. Avery distributed a draft memorandum with the subject line: *Impact of Employment First Initiative and related changes to sheltered workshops*. Ms. Fabry circulated a *Memo of Support from Lane County Survivor Consumer Council* and read its contents into the record. MHA/LADPC members reviewed and approved Ms. Avery's memo.

DK Stotler moved, and Mr. Soto-Gates seconded, to send the letter to Alex Cuyler and the Lane County Legislative Committee. The motion passed unanimously (10:0).

Ms. Kintigh adjusted the order of the agenda so all of the presenters discussing services for veterans would have time to arrive to the meeting.

6.0 BCC LIAISON REPORT

6.a. Commissioner Farr

Commissioner Farr relayed information from the previous night's Community Health Council (CHC) meeting. Because there were now Behavioral Health staff embedded at each of the primary community health clinics, the number of integrated behavioral health (IBH) encounters was at an all-time high. He also referenced Operation 365, noting they had placed 404 homeless veterans in permanent housing. Those involved hoped to apply the lessons learned during Operation 365 to help other segments of the homeless population. He introduced Shanda Miller, Lane County Performance Auditor. The Behavioral Health services audit had just started. It was to be completed in August, 2016. Commissioner Farr also described a recent meeting with State Senator Ron Wyden in which measures to combat opiate addictions were discussed.

6.b. Andrea Brown/Scott Lemons

Scott Lemons and Andrea Brown were unable to attend the meeting. Ms. Brown emailed an update to Ms. Avery who shared it with the Committee. Ms. Brown had spoken during the public comment period at a recent BCC meeting. She introduced herself as the MHA/LADPC liaison, shared their discussions regarding the Employment First initiative, and emphasized the importance of behavioral health in supporting the strategies outlined in the proposed Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP).

5.0 NEW BUSINESS

5.0 b. Membership Recommendation

Lee Anne Wichmann distributed a memorandum from the Membership Committee with the subject line, *Recommendation re: selection of new member*. Ms. Sammis and she comprised the Membership Committee. They had interviewed eight applicants to fill the current vacancy, a continuing term through October 31, 2017. Ms. Wichmann and Ms. Sammis described their reasoning for recommending Art Zamudio.

Mr. Wiles moved, seconded by Renée Van Norman, the MHA/LADPC recommend the BCC appoint Art Zamudio to fill the current vacancy on the committee. The motion passed unanimously (10:0).

Ms. Avery said she planned to submit the Board Order for the BCC's April 5, 2016 meeting. Mr. Zamudio's membership would start at the April MHA/LADPC meeting.

5.0 a. Presentation/Discussion: Local Services for Veterans

Danielle Hanson, Veterans Court Administrator, Lane County Circuit Court, described how the program worked. The District Attorney's (DA) Office identified veterans who had been arrested for crimes heard in the Circuit Court, e.g., domestic violence or drug possession/distribution. Ms. Hanson worked with those accepted into the program to develop a twelve to seventeen month plan to get clean, find a job or enroll in school, and fulfill their obligation of a community give-back. The twenty to twenty-five participants reported weekly on their progress to Judge Rooke-Lee. Veteran mentors provide peer

counseling to help participants gain and maintain sobriety and readjust to civilian life. Ms. Hanson said the two biggest challenges were a lack of housing and the time lag in receiving veteran's benefits. Ms. Hanson answered a number of follow-up questions from Committee members. There had been four women in the program since its inception. Graduation could result in a dismissal of the charges, if the DA concurred. She helped people apply for their VA benefits as it improved their financial stability. Housing assistance was also provided, but transition housing that accepted some marijuana or alcohol use was a challenge. There had been some discussions about having a Mental Health Court at the Circuit Court, but no decision had been made.

Matt Lowen, Sergeant, EPD, discussed initiatives within EPD to modify their tactics and techniques when dealing with an incident involving a veteran. After the Brian Babb incident last year, EPD researched veteran intervention programs in other communities. They had established the Oregon Veterans Network, modeled after a similar program in Boise, Idaho. The network provided peer mentors that police officers could call to get assistance during an incident with a veteran. The Oregon Veterans Network met every other Monday. They needed more volunteer mentors. He offered to email Ms. Avery a flyer describing the meeting logistics so she could forward it to Committee members. Sgt. Lowen, himself a veteran, worked with officers in Patrol and Investigation to learn of veterans needing help. Sgt. Lowen also described his work with the Veterans Court and noted discussions were underway to see if veterans with Municipal Court citations might participate in the program.

Ms. Stotler and Commissioner Farr left the meeting at 3:50 p.m.

Ms. Avery distributed information from Lane County Veterans Services: *Brief Explanation of Some VA Benefits* and a *Veteran's Services of Lane County* brochure. Mr. Wiles distributed another packet which had photocopies of brochures available at the Department of Veterans Affairs office, including: *Health Care for Homeless Veterans, P. T. S. D., not all wounds are visible; Eugene Vet Center; Resources for Homeless Veterans; Veterans Community Outreach; and Roseburg VAHCS OEF/OIF/OND Team*. He introduced Susan Harrison and Cory Hoover.

Ms. Harrison discussed her work with the Veterans Court and other community agencies. The VA office in Roseburg, Oregon, served numerous counties, including Lane County. She stressed every program offered by the VA was voluntary, including commitment. Ms. Harrison advocated for improved information sharing among federal, state and local systems to better serve veterans. Some merely circulated through the systems and did not get consistent help. Another gap she identified was the inability to fill a VA prescription at the Behavioral Health clinic or at the Lane County Jail. Inconsistent medication led to relapses. When Ms. Fabry asked what services were available for military spouses, Ms. Harrison explained support services for families were provided by the Department of Defense at military bases. If a spouse or child of a veteran suffered from secondary post-traumatic stress disorder, counseling was available at the VA. Mr. Wiles added spouses sometimes attended individual or group counseling sessions. Ms. Harrison distributed wallet cards with contact information.

Mr. Hoover described the VA's services for homeless veterans. The first program was an outreach/referral program designed to identify homeless veterans and connect them with community services for housing and behavioral health. It provided some case management services and worked with Sponsors and Saint Vincent DePaul to place

veterans in transitional housing (6 months to two years). The second effort, which he managed, was the Housing and Urban Development (HUD)/VA Supported Housing program. It distributed two hundred eleven HUD Section 8 vouchers for permanent housing. Ninety-one percent of those were leased in Lane County. Mr. Hoover said staffing was limited and they did not provide the type of 24/7 wraparound services available to veterans living in large cities. He described the demographic snapshot of his clients as a single, white male in his 50s who was unemployed, possibly with a disability benefit. When Ms. Fabry asked how the number of vouchers was set, Mr. Hoover explained Congress authorized the total annual number. The VA used local data, e.g., the homeless count, to determine the each county's allocation. Mr. Hoover concluded his remarks by mentioning the monthly Veterans Community Outreach program, which included information on housing programs.

Mr. Wiles outlined the three branches of the VA: Veterans Health Administration (VHA), Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), and the National Cemetery Administration (NCA). The VHA facilities in Lane County are: The Eugene Vet Center, at 11th and Pearl; Behavioral Health and Integration Services at the Old Federal Building, and, the recently opened Eugene Community Based Outpatient Clinic, on Chad Drive. VHA facilities were open 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Mr. Wiles detailed the services available through VBA Behavioral Health, including psychiatry, group and individual therapy, and clinical pharmacy. They served approximately ten thousand veterans in Lane County who qualified for VA benefits. He noted not all people who had served in the military qualified for benefits.

Ms. Kintigh, noting the meeting was close to reaching the scheduled end time, asked Mr. Wiles to continue his presentation at the next meeting.

7.0 DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Due to time constraints, Ms. Nichols did not give a Director's Report.

8.0 CHAIR REPORT

Due to time constraints, Ms. Kintigh did not give a Chair Report.

9.0 MEMBERS' ITEMS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Soto-Gates distributed copies of the *National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Lane County Volume 39, No. 1* newsletter.

Ms. Fabry asked Mr. Wiles if he had information about a trust fund established by Congress for treatment of the children of Vietnam veterans who had been exposed to Agent Orange. Mr. Wiles suggested she contact Joseph Reiley, Lane County Veterans Services manager.

Ms. Fabry also described issues with the Rapid Access program. She said it was very difficult to get addiction assistance. The waiting list for adult males was eight to twelve

weeks. Ms. Tantriella-Modell suggested the Steering Committee look into the situation and possibly schedule the topic for a future MHA/LADPC meeting.

Ms. Zammarelli announced the Lane County Equity Coalition Kickoff meeting scheduled for April 6, 2016 at Lane Community College. The focus was inequalities in health and education systems. Ms. Zammarelli agreed to send Ms. Avery the web link of the announcement for her to distribute to Committee members.

10.0 ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

10.1 Information Needed

10.2 Action Items Identified

Ms. Avery said the new business planned for the next meeting included a presentation on Behavioral Health and Jail Services and an update on the Lane County audit of Behavioral Health services.

11.0 CLOSE/ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Kintigh adjourned the meeting at 4:32 p.m.

(Recorded by Beth Bridges)