

Thursday July 17, 2025

8 am – 10 am

BHLT Meeting Minutes

Call to Order: Hope Galloway called the meeting to order at 8:05 AM and welcomed all present live and online.

Approval of Minutes: There was a motion to approve the March minutes made by Diane Hickey, seconded by Linda Hollaway. Motion approved. There was a motion made to approve the May minutes made by Laura Prilwitz, seconded by Diane Hickey. Motion approved.

Report from Ad Hoc Shelter committee: Courtney Douangdara gave a power point presentation (available online) on the outcomes from the 4 meetings recently held between the City of Denton, ODB, and UWDC. She outlined the new shelter guidelines and process and the waitlist management which were established during those meeting. These were established with a housing focused goal. As of September 1st, some of the shelter's hours and day services have been adjusted based on the shelter's personnel capacity. Courtney walked the room through the application for shelter process. There is no prioritization. The shelter has room for 215 guests however the capacity as of September 1st, based on staffing, is 120 guests.

Report from Local Mental Health Authority: Dallas Hamilton, COO for MHMR gave an update with power point of the Intake, Services, and Programs, for MHMR for May & June.

Denton Public Health Department: Martha Valles gave a report on the metrics of Credible Minds – 629 unduplicated users for 820 sessions, representing a 42% increase in usage this quarter. The top areas searched were: Stress, Breathing Practices, Gratitude and Attachment Style. There was discussion about connecting families to mental health services and the connection experience with first Responders. There is continued discussion regarding funding for the sustainability of the system.

Workgroup Committee reports:

Cross Care Collaborative: Olivia reported that the group is continuing to build the case for an Extended Observation Unit (EOU) for Denton County. They are collaborating with the Data workgroup. Their efforts are to track high users as they travel through resources. They are also continuing their advocacy with the Legislature for state funding.

Substance Use: Lauren Titsworth reported that they are working on the anti-stigma campaign. They also are re-evaluating Front Doors for Substance Use Disorder (SUD). The City of Lewisville is collaborating with them in the use of the Opioid dollars.

Suicide Prevention: Chair Dallas Hamilton reported that they have merged groups and plan to focus on Zero Suicide task force and suicide prevention.

Child and Family Systems: Laura reported that they are continuing to update the youth SIM.

Data Workgroup: Juan Rodriguez went over the data requests and how that info is used. He announced that Alex and Shelby were currently giving a presentation on our Find Help use at a national convention

Backbone support Updates:

Housing and Homelessness Leadership Team: Olivia reported that they are in a collaborative effort with the Health Care community as the Community Shelter undergoes its changes and involving the use of Find Help. Also, Homelessness Response 101 was held and was well attended. It focuses on teaching Housing Crisis Response and how that system works. UWDC will continue to hold those sessions.

Workforce Success Leadership Team: Shelby reported that they are doing a market analysis for workforce solutions outcomes.

Public Comment:

Matt Bertagnole from UBH announced that Mayhill hospital will be closing their mental health beds. Some services are going to UBH, making a strain on that system.

Olivia announced that she had a visit with Shana Hazzard of Lena Pope last week and that they are opening counseling and Substance Use services in Roanoke to re-establish services in North Central Texas. Looking at a September opening for outpatient counseling.

Carlos Hernandez related a successful collaborative effort in The Colony with a 92-year-old veteran receiving much needed services.

MHMR announced their Annual Judicial & Mental Health Summit of Denton County which brings together law enforcement, city government, mental health clinicians, faith leaders and business owners across the community to talk openly about the challenges and successes of working with Denton County's population affected by mental health issues. This Summit focuses on the importance of community collaboration, education and awareness

Lauren Titsworth announced a volunteer fair at Cumberland Family Services.

Adjourned: Next meeting is September 18, 2025, 8am – 10am.