

Thursday March 6, 2025

8 am – 10 am

BHLT Meeting Minutes

Call to Order: Hope Galloway called the meeting to order at 8:00 AM and welcomed all present live and online.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from January 2025 meeting were approved. Bobbie Mitchell made the motion and second by Laura Prillwitz.

Guest Introduction: Jennifer Swartz who is with the Psyche Clinic at UNT. Martha Valles, a social worker with DCPH, Dani Shaw with DCFOF, and _____ an intern with Denton County Probate Court.

Report from Local Mental Health Authority: Pam gave an update with power point of the Intake, Services and Programs for MHMR for the last quarter. In response to a question, she explained the wait list policy for programming and concluded with an explanation of the need for more funding which has to come through the Legislature. In response to a question about the MHMR in house pharmacy, Pam noted that, again, funding is an issue and non-psychiatric drugs. It was noted that Interfaith Ministries now has some pharmaceutical funding for clients.

Denton Public Health Department: Alex Reed reported on the mental health navigator program and introduced Martha, a new Social Worker/Navigator. She is going to be intentionally visible in the community spreading awareness about the program.

Credible Mind has 4000 users. The contract has been extended until June. It currently costs the county \$11/person for use. Hope reported successfully using Credible Mind as a resource recently during the cheerleader camp active shooter crisis in Dallas.

Substance Use and Collective Impact study from UNT: Hope introduced Kelly Partin who has been conducting research in the community. She outlined her research and gave an overall picture of Substance Use Disorder (SUD) in Denton County. She gave a power point presentation (copy sent to all members by email after the meeting) and concluded with recommendations, and data challenges. She also spoke about the challenges encountered with data sharing. There was discussion back and forth between attending agencies to strategize next steps for the community. Gary questioned which agencies would carry this water for the BHLT. The Data workgroup was suggested and suggested mapping current MOU's.

Workgroup Committee reports:

CrossCare Collaborative:

Substance Use: Lauren Titsworth reported that they are working on breaking down the stigma and bringing down barriers and access to care.

Suicide Prevention: Chair Dallas Hamilton reported on their work concerning community education and breaking down stigma. They are having conversations about access to guns.

Child and Family Systems: Laura reported on social media with adolescents' education. Hope suggested and will connect them to an online platform "Frankly".

New Business: This year for Mental Health Awareness month we will be doing one proclamation with the County Commissioners court instead of each city.

Backbone support Updates:

Housing and Homelessness Leadership Team: Olivia reported that they had just received the data on this year's PIT count held in January. The PIT reveal date is May 26th the 2020 room of the courthouse. They would like to bring in more businesses next year.

Workforce Success Leadership Team: Shelby reported that VITA (volunteer Income Tax Assistance) continues through April 15th. They are looking at \$1 million in refunds for ALICE households and have logged 931 volunteer hours.

March 22 there will be an eye exam screening which comes from the Find Help data about the public's search for eye exams.

Public Comment:

Jennifer Swartz talked about the UNT Psychology Clinic.

Gary reported about the Extended Observation Unit support at the State Legislature level. There is support for an EOU for Tarrant and Denton from Senator Tan Parker. Representatives Baumgartner and Little have engaged with mental health support for the county.

Adjourned: Next meeting is May 15, 2025, 8am – 10am.