



**Coast to Cascades Community Wellness Network (CCCWN)
Regional Mental Health/Substance Use Disorder Coalition
Meeting Summary
Held virtually – Microsoft Teams
January 8, 2024
10:30 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.**

Participants: Jennifer Beckner, Shelli Alinari-Beebe, Shannon Andersen, OSU AVP for Public Safety and Chief of Police, Maisa Athamneh, Brandon Bates, Isabelle Cisco, Emma Deane, Bryan Decker, Molly Gelin, Marcia Harnden, Albany Chief of Police, Lalori Lager, Curtis Landers, Lincoln County Sheriff, Lonnie Martinez, Avalon Mason, Michelle Means, Jolynn Meza Wynkoop, JoAnn Miller, Thien Nguyen, Stephan O’Hair, James Page, Vicki Rudell, Christina Sechrest, Heidi May-Stoulil, Miranda Tasker, Blue Valentine, Jef Van Arsdall, Benton County Sheriff, Caitlyn Weinberger, and Shelley Hazelton

Welcome/Introductions:

Jennifer Beckner welcomed everyone to the meeting and led introductions.

Meeting Minutes:

The December 11, 2023, meeting minutes of the CCCWN Regional Mental Health/Substance Use Disorder Coalition (SUD) were presented. **Bryan Decker made a motion and Isabelle Cisco seconded the motion to approve the meeting minutes as presented. The motion was voted upon and was unanimously approved.**

Federal/State Grants Reports and Updates:

Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Rural Communities Opioid Response Program (RCORP) Implementation III Rural Communities Supporting Women and Youth (RC-SWAY) Grant:

A HRSA RCORP RC-SWAY Grant report and Work Plan Highlights was noted and distributed prior to the meeting. The RC-SWAY Budget Adjustment Recommendations was presented.

- **Molly Gelin** – The RC-SWAY grant is in the 3rd year of the grant. We are seeking approval around a proposed budget increase in year 3 for an additional medial campaign specific to pregnant/postpartum mothers and children, Family Tree Relief Nursery, and Communities Helping All Negotiate Change Effectively (C.H.A.N.C.E.). The funds will allow partners to support more of our target population and provide additional resources to those with the highest need. The Lincoln County Alcohol and Drug proposed budget increase was approved in December 2023.
 - a. To date, the project has allocated approximately \$900,000 of the grant. The remaining balance of the grant to cover activities through August 31, 2024, is nearly \$90,000.

- b. Requesting - **\$9,227.41 – C.H.A.N.C.E. Lebanon House** – The Lebanon House provides transitional and/or temporary housing to women and their children who are in treatment or recovery. The house needs updated furniture to continue to provide appropriate housing for its clients. The funds will be used to purchase furniture and appliances. This request is an allowable expense under the support services category of the RC-SWAY grant.
- c. Requesting - **\$50,000 – Media Campaign** – A media campaign will be developed and implemented in east Linn County with a focus on women and youth. The campaign will be developed by AHM Brands.
- d. Requesting - **\$15,000 – Family Tree Relief Nursery** – Family Tree Relief Nursery will provide baby furniture and supplies to parents who are accessing services through the HOPE Center and emergency shelter in Sweet Home. Family Tree Relief Nursery will also provide bus passes, taxi passes, and gas vouchers to women and youth in Sweet Home.
- e. Requesting - **\$7,500 – Travel** – The funding will cover the costs of Peer Support Specialists funded under the grant to attend the Peer Support Specialists Conference on May 6-9, 2024, in Seaside.
- f. **The total budget adjustment - \$81,727.41**

HRSA Rural Communities Opioid Response Program – Implementation (RCORP-I) – Helping Impact Women and Youth (HIWAY) Project Grant for Lincoln County:

A HRSA RCORP-I HIWAY Project Grant report and Work Plan Highlights was noted and distributed prior to the meeting.

- **Jolynn Meza Wynkoop** – The stigma reduction media campaign went live on December 11, 2023. This campaign is for Benton, Lincoln, and Linn Counties. TV, radio, digital, and social media ads were finalized in early December and have been actively engaged with by the public. The Billboards will go up in January 2024. Thanks to Carter Kachel and Araceli Cuerva who were the face of the ads/billboards.

Brandon Bates made a motion and Shelli Alinari-Beebe seconded the motion to approve the HRSA RC-SWAY Grant written report and Work Plan Highlights along with the proposed budget increase for Year 3 for C.H.A.N.C.E, the medica campaign, Family Tree Relief Nursery, and travel, and approval for the HRSA RCORP-I HIWAY Project Grant written report and Work Plan Highlights as presented. The motion was voted upon and unanimously approved.

Lalori Lager – The Prime Plus – Harm Reduction approach – Bought a Sprinter van and put Prime Plus on it. If Isabelle Cisco or anyone or if we want to include any media type advertising, we can add to the side of the van. It does not have Reconnections Counseling on it.

Update – Regional Overdoses:

Members provide updates on regional overdoses.

- **JoAnn Miller:**
 - a. Shared the Samaritan Health Services (SHS) – Individual Overdose Report for Reporting Period December 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023. 2023 Data for SHS for January through December 2023 was noted. We are also receiving law enforcement data.
- **Marcia Harnden, Albany Chief of Police:**

- a. We closed out the year of 2023 with a record high with overdoses and deaths.
 - b. The City of Albany had 18 deaths in 2023 compared to 2022, which was at 11.
 - c. There were 126 overall calls in 2023 compared to 2022 with 91 calls.
 - d. Used Narcan – 155 times.
 - e. There was an overdose death in January at a park involving a homeless person.
 - f. **Jennifer Beckner** – Do you have enough Narcan? Do have Opioid Settlement funding.
 - g. **Marcia Harnden, Albany Chief of Police** – “Yes,” they do have enough Narcan.
 - h. **Isabelle Cisco** – Tracking Narcan deployed.
 - i. **Marcia Harnden, Albany Chief of Police** – Does break down per call if Narcan is used and happy to supply that data if requested.
- **Jef Van Arsdall, Benton County Sheriff:**
 - a. For Benton County – 158 overdoses with 10 fatalities. Last year there were 11 fatalities.
 - b. Distributing “Leave Behind Kits” and are available for handout. 35 kits were given last month to adults in custody that were released to the general population.
 - c. There are not as many reports of overdoses, but knows overdoses are occurring. They are still distributing Narcan.
 - **Shannon Andersen, OSU AVP for Public Safety and Chief of Police** – Watching trends. Had one deployment of Narcan. Unsure if the subject was asked about Narcan. Happened in the resident hall.
 - **Jennifer Beckner** – Isabelle Cisco can help with Narcan distribution and as needed.
 - **Curtis Landers, Lincoln County Sheriff** – Still collecting data. Agrees with everything said.
 - **Jennifer Beckner** – No consistent Medical Examiner. Local health authorities are tracking fatal overdoses and only list a certain number. How do others deal with, or do they have consistent Medical Examiners?
 - a. **Marcia Harnden, Albany Chief of Police** – The Medical Examiner system with the state needs work. When expect overdose death, do local fluid draw. Knows we can push and do better.
 - b. **Jef Van Arsdall, Benton County Sheriff** – Unless law enforcement is there and says it is an overdose death, House District Attorney and Medical Examiner’s Office does a follow up.
 - c. **JoAnn Miller** – We do list fatalities in our reports.
 - d. **Jennifer Beckner** – Can we work and look at regionally on a grant around a dedicated medical examiner for our region. We could get a group together and discuss.
 - There are new synthetic opioids coming out and they are not testing for them.
 - **Isabelle Cisco** – Last Spring with the House Bill, the state was reporting out fatalities, 24 years old and younger. Process through Medical Examiner’s office. New legislative process is being implemented.
 - **Blue Valentine** – Sent out information on some new drugs identified in the street supply.
 - a. Nitazenes are synthetic opioids, and they are not new to the supply, but this kind/analog is new in the street drug supply. The drug is N-Desethyl etonitazene. Other types of Nitazenes have been detected in the drug supply in the past few years, but they are far less common than Fentanyl at this time.

- b. N-Desethyl etonitazene, which is the type of opioid, Nitazene, is considered to be 10 times more powerful than Fentanyl.
- c. There is a veterinary sedative called Medetomidine found in the street opioid supply (it is not Xylazine).
- d. Her biggest concerns are that our current interventions will need to shift in the future (ex: Fentanyl test strips will not show whether Nitazenes are in a sample), and that the supply is continuing to shift and change more rapidly than in past decades. This also can affect withdrawal management in health care and correctional settings, and we do not yet know enough about the effects of this newly identified veterinary sedative as far as withdrawal or possible wounds similar to Xylazine.
- e. The Harm Reduction Team is recommending review to the Alcohol and Drug Policy Commission.
- f. **Jennifer Beckner** – In Lincoln County, harm reduction is reporting seeing Xylazine wounds. Are we seeing in Linn County?
- g. **Blue Valentine** – They are seeing wounds that look like that, but they cannot confirm for sure.
- h. **Jef Van Arsdall, Benton County Sheriff** – The increase in wounds is not resolving itself. Want to get people into care and care for those that need to be in custody. When people are released from jail, they are not always taking care of themselves.

Behavioral Health Resource Network (BHRN) Updates:

Behavioral Health Resource Network updates were provided.

- **Jennifer Beckner – Lincoln County:**

- a. Doing a lot of work with the winter shelter. Looking to hire Resource Navigators.
- b. Shocked at the demographics of individuals in the shelter. Seeing a lot of older individuals and seeing those with lots of needs. Works closely with the Resource Navigators. Feels like there is a gap. A lot of clients are not connected with the Oregon Health Plan. They do have a good system in place.
- c. They have posted for a second Harm Reduction Worker.
- d. Discussing a Registered Nurse (RN) position. They do currently have an LPN. They do need a RN to do Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) out in the field. The Harm Reduction Team has been consistent. Want a nurse with the Harm Reduction Team, that regularly meets with clients.
- e. Clients are seeing a lot of locum tenens providers and contracted physicians.
- f. The Regional Behavioral Health Resource Network met last month. Feels like there is a lot of questions with the BHRNs. Was meeting quarterly. Will meet the end of January and invite representatives from Oregon Health Authority (OHA). One question we have is, “Does BHRN money follow a client and if someone needed residential treatment and there is no provider in the community will the money follow them?” Also, “Will the BHRN funding come from where the patient was sent or where they go?” Our hope is that OHA can answer some of our questions.
- g. The Oregon Secretary of State put out the audit for the BHRN system and noted in the media that we are not spending the funding. It has been hard to recruit for certain positions. We need a better way with recruitment. We had some great interviews. The best applicants have been internal applicants.
- h. **Blue Valentine** – There are issues with workforce shortages – CADAC, Peer Support Specialists, etc. Thought we were moving to get more through training. Not sure if there is anything local. We need more people to get trained.

- i. **Bryan Decker** – Had programs/training through C.H.A.N.C.E. to do quarterly trainings in Albany. Had an extra one that was full that had 4-6 people from the Lincoln County area.
 - j. **Christiana Sechrest** – Family Tree Relief Nursery has CRM's trainings.
 - k. **Lonnie Martinez** – Hears a lot about housing issues and finding places to live, especially at the coast with short-term housing vacation rentals, all contributing to it. There are programs out there and online classes/courses. With Mental Health and Addiction Certification Board of Oregon (MHACBO), will not certify without a document of sobriety. Some places you must have 2 years of sobriety. Can contact him for help and can help with housing as well –
lonnie.l.martinez@employ.oregon.gov
- **Avalon Mason – Benton County** – Things are going well. No further updates currently.
 - **Michell Means – Linn County** – Had a meeting in early January with the Linn County BHRN and we had representatives from OHA present. The question was asked about money following the patient. If a patient is seen in Benton County and then goes to Lincoln County, funds do not follow the patient as noted by OHA.
 - **Thien Nguyen** – Working on updates to the tri-fold regional brochure.
 - **Jennifer Beckner** – Has a meeting this month with Samaritan Treatment and Recovery Services for Lincoln County. Has a dedicated person at the coast that does assessments on Mondays and Tuesdays.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the Regional Mental Health/Substance Use Disorder Coalition is scheduled for February 12, 2024, at 10:30 a.m.

Adjourn:

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Shelley Hazelton
Community Health Promotion