



**Coast to Cascades Community Wellness Network (CCCWN)
Regional Mental Health/Substance Use Disorder Coalition
Meeting Summary
Held virtually – Microsoft Teams
February 12, 2024
10:30 a.m. – 12:05 p.m.**

Participants: Jennifer Beckner, Shawnee Aiello-Dixon, Shelli Alinari-Beebe, Maisa Athamneh, Brandon Bates, Belit Burke, Shirley Byrd, Emma Deane, Frederick Edwards, Kelly Fraser, Todd Jeter, Avalon Mason, Jacob Mathis, Michelle Means, Jolynn Meza Wynkoop, JoAnn Miller, Thien Nguyen, Stephan O’Hair, James Page, Josh Pankau, Tanya Pritt, Miranda Tasker, Shauna Taylor-Hubert, Justin Thomas, Blue Valentine, Caitlyn Weinberger, Earlean Wilson Huey, and Shelley Hazelton

Welcome/Introductions:

Jennifer Beckner welcomed everyone to the meeting and led introductions.

Jennifer Beckner introduced Jacob Mathis who is the Resource Navigator for the Winter Shelter program. He is working to get certified as on Oregon Health Plan (OHP) Navigator. They have another open position for a Resource Navigator. There is an electronic referral form so referrals can go to Jacob Mathis.

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.

- **Michelle Means** – Linn County Alcohol and Drug was awarded funding for curriculum materials for early intervention/prevention and incentive items for youth LifeSkills and is in the process of purchasing these items.
- Family Tree Relief Nursery Peer Support Specialists continues to provide support for women and youth. They are implementing a substance use disorder (SUD) screening process to assist individuals on levels of care for residential treatment when needed. They are also exploring housing support.
- Samaritan Treatment and Recovery Services (STARS) Peer Support Specialists continues to provide services as well and referrals to programs.
- **Jennifer Beckner** – Happy to see they are looking at purchasing incentive items for youth. She is part of a new housing group and they are prioritizing youth and older adults without housing.

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** – Northwest Coastal Housing has hired a new Peer Support Specialist to serve the HIWAY grant and will focus on the pregnant and parenting population.

Shelli Alinari-Beebe made a motion and Tanya Pritt seconded the motion to approve the HRSA RC-SWAY Grant written report and Work Plan Highlights and the HRSA RCORP-I HIWAY Project Grant written report and Work Plan Highlights as presented. The motion was voted upon and unanimously approved.

Peer Support Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Guide:

JoAnn Miller presented the SAMHSA guide – How Can a Peer Specialist Support My Recovery from Problematic Substance Use – For People Seeking or In Recovery.

- It is a great resource and wanted to have available for people to give out, and it is a valuable tool for those individuals seeking treatment or who are in recovery.
- **Josh Pankau** – This would be a valuable resource to have on our CCCWN website. It gives a good explanation of what Peer Support Specialists are and what is available. Will have a class that starts on February 26, 2024, and will plan to hand out to people in the class. It is a full class with 20 people, and there is a backup list.
- **Jennifer Beckner** – Is impressed with this guide and will share with community leaders. Thinks it is a valuable resource.
- **Frederick Edwards** – Had not heard that Josh Pankau was having a class. Does have quite a few people wanting to take a class.
 - a. **Josh Pankau** – Had the class advertised for two days and it filled up about half a week ago. It was posted on Facebook. Does keep a list of people interested and is adding to that list. If anyone has any staff or new hires interested, call the front desk and they can be put people on the list. They also have other resources available as well.
 - b. **Emma Dean** – In May/June they will have another class with Communities Helping All Negotiate Change Effectively (C.H.A.N.C.E.). They are working off a wait list. You can call C.H.A.N.C.E if you have people that need to attend a class.
 - c. **Frederick Edwards** – Is there a list of Peer Support Specialists already trained and are there any Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) in that population?
 - d. **Josh Pankau** – If you are looking for people to hire, feel free to email him and he can put information up for people.
 - e. **Emma Deane** – They can do the same. They have BIPOC individuals come in and can share with others. Kami Beard is a good person to talk to at C.H.A.N.C.E. on who has completed classes.
 - f. **Blue Valentine** – For the trainings understands with the Certified Recovery Mentor it is one year of abstinence through the Mental Health and Addiction Certification Board of Oregon (MHACBO). Which certification is it?
 - g. **Josh Pankau** – It is the Certified Recovery Mentor with the one-year abstinence through MHACBO.

- **Jennifer Beckner** – Do we need a Hub for education for when stuff comes up including harm reduction things – One main place for things?
- **Jacob Mathis** – There is an Opioids Overdose and Outreach Seminar scheduled for February 29, 2024, from 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. and from 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. at the Center for Health Education in Newport. Feel free to contact Amy Conner at (541) 574-4952 to reserve a seat. Jesse Noble is hosting the event.
- **Jolynn Meza Wynkoop** – For any events/trainings, we can advertise those on the CCCWN website, and link those to announcements to sign up forms on Eventbrite. Can add the SAMHSA guide to the webpage. You can email her at jolynnm@samhealth.org with information about upcoming events/trainings/offering and she can have those listed on the homepage of the CCCWN website and on the CCCWN Mental Health/Substance Use Disorder Coalition page.
- **Josh Pankau** – Will update Jolynn Meza Wynkoop when they have their next training. Currently, they do not have a date in stone yet, however, they are working to have the trainings more regularly.

Behavioral Health Resource Network (BHRN) Updates:

Behavioral Health Resource Network updates were provided.

- **Jennifer Beckner – Lincoln County BHRN:**
 - a. Oregon Health Authority experts have been meeting with some of the BHRNs.
 - b. Is watching the short session closely and participating in focus groups. There are discussions on changes coming. Talks about criminalizing certain portions of the law and talking about misdemeanor fees. At one meeting, there was discussion on how many FTEs was needed for County Coordinators, when happens when someone is cited, referrals, if someone accepts treatment – All of which has been discussed before. Counties are being asked to do one more thing, but if we cannot get the people, not sure what we can tell them. Until we fix the workforce and housing issue, we will continue to face barriers. One important thing with the State of Oregon audit is that some of the communities are not spending as many funds, but there are still a lot of positions that are open that need to be filled.
 - c. The Lincoln County BHRN is doing work with the houseless population. We have opened a permanent winter shelter in Newport and will open one in Lincoln City as well. Jacob Mathis is working in the shelters. Anticipating the winter shelter will close from April through August and during the summer break will remodel the Newport shelter. The shelter has been full almost every night since it has opened.
- **Thien Nguyen – Linn and Lincoln County BHRN:**
 - a. Picked up the Linn County BHRN portion since Michell Means transferred to the HRSA RC-SWAY Grant.
 - b. There has been a lot of engagement with the BHRN.
 - c. C.H.A.N.C.E is working on rental assistance.
 - d. Community Services Consortium – Is visiting and presenting in the community.
 - e. STARS – Jake Miller is the Intake Specialist and is working half time in Linn County and half time in Lincoln County. Is in contact with the Phoenix Wellness Center and the STARS coastal facility.
- **Jennifer Beckner:**
 - a. The BHRNs are working. They had a client that they have been trying to get into treatment for over two years.

The Harm Reduction Team called and said the person was ready for treatment. Phoenix Wellness Center had a driver and was able to get the patient to Salem, which was her choice for methadone treatment. The coast is limited with Subutex and Suboxone.

- b. Things are changing on the federal level with methadone.
- **Avalon Mason – Benton County BHRN:**
 - a. Does not have any updates for the Benton County BHRN. They have not had Oregon Health Authority (OHA) come to a meeting.
 - b. **Michelle Means** – They did have representatives from OHA come to a Linn County meeting. She can connect Avalon Mason with the representatives from that meeting. There should be someone assigned to the county.
- **JoAnn Miller** – “Yes,” they did have OHA representatives at a recent meeting. There are challenges with BHRN clients and who is responsible for what. With STARS, when client is ready to be discharged STARS should not be responsible to look for housing for the client. Partners that have housing as part of their BHRN should be involved in this process. The BHRNs need to come together more cohesively and discuss treatment, how to make referrals and connections, employment and who to connect to and who is response for what. How are referrals happening - Need referral mechanisms in place.
- **Shelli Alinari-Beebe** – Not all BHRN partners are aware of all services – Agrees we need to follow up on who does what.
- **Josh Pankau** – A week or so before discharge, if a Care Coordinator calls Family Tree Relief Nursery, they can provide continuous care and navigate resources. Even if people know the referral process, they may not know what it looks like to engage in services.
- **Frederick Edwards** – Talks with clients and can find out what they need. Would have to call for certain services. Is here to follow through. It is important to talk to clients.
- **Tanya Pritt** – When people come into their setting, they start at that time connecting the individual to housing and employment, utilizing Family Tree Relief Nursery and C.H.A.N.C.E. and they have some transitional houses as well.
- **Miranda Tasker** – Had clients from STARS that graduated and told by clients that they love clear boundaries and clear clarification so that clients are not overwhelmed.
- **Jennifer Beckner** – Do people use Unite Us referral platform?
 - a. Josh Pankau, Shelli Alinari-Beebe, Miranda Tasker all noted they have used. Care Coordination and other clinics use.
 - b. **Jennifer Beckner** – Lincoln County Health and Human Services has permission to use Unite Us for Lincoln County. Behavioral Health is rolling out a new Electronic Medical Record.
 - c. Is Unite Us user friendly?
 - d. It was noted that Unite Us electronic medical record system does not talk well with Samaritan Health Services Epic system.
 - e. **Miranda Tasker** – Do not get as many referrals. It goes in phases. There are a few providers that use as well and seems to be user friendly for them. Cannot use Epic as well with this. Love the ide of Unite Us. Would be a useful tool. Those that run the platform have been good.
 - f. **Josh Pankau** – Sometimes get referrals that are not specific to their organization. Still refer out to who is beneficial to them. It is user friendly. They do not get a ton of referrals. The Earley Childhood Therapeutic Classroom does get a lot of referrals.

- g. **Jennifer Beckner** – With Lincoln County, people are pushing them to use the platform. Have talked with people such as Lola Jones who was hesitant in the past and realizes it is necessary now.
- h. Jacob Mathis – Will do referrals to other organizations as well.

Update on Regional Overdoses:

Jennifer Beckner and JoAnn Miller led discussions around regional overdoses.

- The following reports were noted - Samaritan Health Services – Individual Overdose Report – Reporting Period: January 1, 2024-January 31, 2024; the Samaritan Health Services 2024 Data; and the Law Enforcement Individual Overdose Report for Reporting Period: January 2024 – APD-Albany Police Department, LCSO-Linn County Sheriff's Office, LPD-Lebanon Police Department, SHPD-Sweet Home Police Department, OSP-Oregon State Police Report.
- Law Enforcement Individual Overdose Report:
 - a. There was 1 fatal overdose with Albany Police Department involving Fentanyl.
 - b. Main cause of overdoses – Fentanyl – Total of 14 and 1 overdose with Cocaine.
 - c. Overdose numbers are remaining steady and as noted the main overdoses are involving Fentanyl and Cocaine.
- **JoAnn Miller** – Benton County Overdoses Report – January 2024 – Benton County Sheriff's Office:
 - a. There were 11 overdoses in January 2024.
 - b. The primary suspected drugs included:
 - Alcohol - 1
 - Benzodiazepine - 1
 - Fentanyl - 6
 - Over the Counter - 2
 - Prescription Drugs – 1
- **Jennifer Beckner** – It would be great if we could get overdose data from all the Sheriff's Office for our three-county region.
 - a. Sherriff Curtis Landers for Lincoln County will not be going for re-election, but he is recommending Adam Shanks as the new Sheriff.
- **JoAnn Miller** – With Samaritan Health Services overdose data we are seeing younger kids overdosing. This is alarming.
 - a. January 2024 - Good Samaritan Regional Medical Center had one 13-year-old overdose.
 - b. January 2024 - Samaritan Lebanon Community Hospital had one 13-year-old overdose and one 16-year-old overdose.
 - c. January 2024 – Samaritan North Lincoln Hospital had one 14-year-old overdose.
 - d. January 2024 – Samaritan Pacific Communities Hospital had one 7-year-old overdose and one 16-year-old overdose.
 - e. It is alarming when you look at the prevention side.
 - f. The Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS)/Neonatal Opioid Withdrawal Syndrome (NOWS) numbers are staying steady.
- **Josh Pankau** – Now that we are in the second semester in school, we have one of our Peer Support Specialists going into multiple schools during health education classes. We have also been going into OYA here at Oak Creek to connect with youth who are leaving and connecting them with Peer Support once they leave.

- **Jennifer Beckner** – Would like to highlight the LifeSkills Program with Linn County Alcohol and Drug. It is an evidence-based program and is a great program. They have worked in prevention for years and are doing amazing work.
 - a. **Justin Thomas** – That program stems back to Tony Howell. Is fortunate to be helping carry that torch. Their prevention staff does a tremendous job for the community.
- **Tanya Pritt** – Agrees with Jennifer Beckner, the Linn County prevention group are “rock stars.” They do magnificent work. They could serve as a model.
- **JoAnn Miller**- We have the Linn Together group, which is a community Coalition for healthy youth choices. They used to have these types of Coalitions across the state. Now Linn Together is the main Coalition in this area.

Legislation Update – Measure 110:

JoAnn Miller reported on the legislative update around Measure 110.

- The budget piece with Measure 110 is concerning. If we remove funding, what will this do to the Behavioral Health Resource Networks.
- We are watching Oregon’s House Bill (HB) 4002, which would make possession of small amounts of drugs a class C misdemeanor and give law enforcement more power to prosecute dealers. Included in the proposal is those caught with user amounts of drugs would have opportunities to skirt a criminal conviction or charges altogether in exchange for meeting with a service provider and to avoid criminal charges they can enter a deflection program. The bill would give treatment centers the option of holding a drug-intoxicated person up to three days without their consent and will make it easier to get medications to treat opioid addiction. This bill is getting traction.
- HB 4036 – Increases penalties for some drug offenses and creates new drug crimes. The bill restores misdemeanor penalties. The Act makes changes to treatment funding.
- HB 4062 – Is a Republican sponsored bill – Also, increases penalties for some drug offenses and creates new drug crimes, and makes changes to treatment funding. The Act creates a new diversion program and a process for setting aside certain drug convictions. Creates the crime of using a controlled substance in public.
- Once again, we are criminalizing the disease and we do not have treatment beds. Oregon is one of the highest in the state for lack of treatment beds.
- **Blue Valentine** – We do not have enough treatment beds for those people who want treatment. Not sure how that would work with current workforce shortages.
- **JoAnn Miller** – Would love to see Milestones open its treatment facility for youth again.
- **Tanya Pritt** – Thanks, JoAnn Miller. Would love to be able to open the youth facility again. Would need to figure out how it would pay for itself. Does have adolescent outpatient services with a no wait list.
- **Jennifer Beckner** – If we do not have the beds or systems in place, it will not work and if we do not have the people to hire, how will it work?
- **Todd Jeter** – IHN started a year ago a Regional Behavioral Health Strategy Committee and broke out over months a subcommittee to do a substance use disorder analysis across the region. Looking at claims-based data to drive action. From there as they have data available can share updates as they move along the process. From state level, added to Oregon Liquor and Cannabis Commission – Alcohol tax is one of the lowest in the nation. Is a potential to tap into to pay for recovery services. Will report back on that as well.

- **JoAnn Miller** – The alcohol lobbyist does have the funding to influence. Will keep eye out to see if they raise taxes.

Announcements/Additional Business:

Announcements and additional business were shared.

- **Jennifer Beckner** – At a future meeting would like to discuss changes at federal level related to treatment and Medication Assisted Treatment Services via tele-medicine. They are also starting inductions in the field with a harm reduction pilot project in Portland. Will try to get someone to come talk at a future meeting.
- **James Page** – They do methadone inductions in the Emergency Departments in Portland – Able to increase patients more rapidly. Have multiple mobile units in Tigard and building in Hillsboro as well. Buprenorphine products – Audio – tele-health. Our area is behind the curve with methadone hospitals around here on what is available. Salem and Portland are seamless. Nothing is happening around here. It has happened before with patients admitted to ICU, but it was lengthy process.
- **Shauna Taylor-Hubert** – Will follow up with James Page on protocol updates in the Emergency Department with addiction providers.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the Regional Mental Health/Substance Use Disorder Coalition is scheduled for March 11, 2024, at 10:30 a.m.

Adjourn:

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Shelley Hazelton
Community Health Promotion