



**Coast to Cascades Community Wellness Network (CCCWN)
Regional Mental Health/Substance Use Disorder Coalition
Meeting Summary
Held virtually – Microsoft Teams
March 11, 2024
10:30 a.m. – 11:50 a.m.**

Participants: Jennifer Beckner, Shawnee Aiello-Dixon, Shelli Alinari-Beebe, Rubi Arizmendi, Maisa Athamneh, Brandon Bates, Belit Burke, Shirley Byrd, Jeannie Davis, Ed.D., Emma Deane, Morgan Goss, Marcia Harnden, Albany Chief of Police, Todd Jeter, Lalori Lager, Callie Lamendola-Gilliam, Curtis Landers, Lincoln County Sherriff, Lonnie Martinez, Michelle Means, Liz Merritt, Jolynn Meza Wynkoop, JoAnn Miller, Rocio Munoz, Thien Nguyen, Stephan O’Hair, James Page, Josh Pankau, Tanya Pritt, Angie Richards, Jane Russell, Miranda Tasker, Shauna Taylor-Hubert, Justin Thomas, Blue Valentine, Lori Vallelunga, Jef Van Arsdall, Benton County Sheriff, Earlean Wilson Huey, Gail Woodworth, and Shelley Hazelton

Welcome/Introductions:

Jennifer Beckner welcomed everyone to the meeting and led introductions.

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.

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.

Marcia Harnden, Albany Chief of Police, made a motion and Josh Pankau 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.

House Bill (HB) 4002 Update:

Discussion followed on HB 4002, which puts in a new misdemeanor charge for drug possession. It encourages people to enter treatment programs rather than face charges and go to jail.

- **Marcia Harnden, Albany Chief of Police:**
 - a. There is a lot of work to do on the law enforcement side. It is an overhaul of Measure 110.
 - b. We are waiting for the Governor to sign. It was announced that she would sign. There are emergency clauses in place.
 - c. She sits on the Improving People’s Access to Community-based Treatment, Supports, and Services (IMPACTS) Committee.
 - d. With law enforcement, even though there is support for change, people are grateful for the six-month delay. It will have a significant impact on probation staff and jails.
 - e. Unclassified Misdemeanor, City of Albany, most went through Municipal Court. Do not have Drug Court. Linn County does have this. The law component will take a while to implement.
 - f. From now until September 1st, until the criminal aspect comes to law, will be looking at programs in place and how to handle.
- **Curtis Landers, Lincoln County Sheriff:**
 - a. Hopes will be successful for everyone and save lives and help what Measure 110 was created to do – Help people and save lives. Also, to help people get into treatment and recovery.
 - b. There is a lot of work to do before the law comes into effect on September 1st.
 - c. Money is coming down to 23 counties for those signing up for diversion. Lincoln County did not sign on. Do have a program and receive money for that.
 - d. Will enhance as far as deflection. The first step is deflection and then cite and release. If those do not work, then take to jail. Pre-trial takes over and judge starts diversion. Starting to intersect map to divert those and putting on probation. There is money coming into communities for probation.
 - e. Is geared toward getting people in treatment and recovery. Concerned with jails – Run 30 beds and working with sanctions – Probation - Hold to get those in treatment.
 - f. Will be a lot of education. Deflection and diversion are important first.
- **Jef Van Arsdall, Benton County Sheriff:**
 - a. Signed up to get drug court up and running again.
 - b. Training one third of patrol – Diversion. Have not had a lot of training.
 - c. Parole/probation – Want to make sure there is funding.
 - d. Big concern is how will interact with Senate Bill (SB) 48, related to pre-trial release.
 - e. Jails are full.
- **Marcia Harnden, Albany Chief of Police** – Looking at where we are at before Measure 110, set up multiple off ramps and back state funding. Can adjust, train, and get local systems set up.
- **Jennifer Beckner:**
 - a. Makes nervous to set up deflection program. Through Behavioral Health, looking at workforce. Where are people to fill open positions where do we house these individuals?
 - b. Still need detox somewhere near our region.
 - c. Bill had a lot more with creating committees. We already have state plans and committees such as the Alcohol and Drug Policy Commission. Looking at gaps with youth. Original plan to address youth and prevention.
 - d. Has concerns with the workforce and the added burden on public defenders.

- **Tanya Pritt** – For the past two years, Benton County Drug Court never exceeded more than 6 participants at any given time. Why was that? What must be done to make it robust and successful? Benton County is rich in resources, and we need to be careful.
- **Curtis Landers, Lincoln County Sheriff** – The House Bill is 64-65 pages long with a lot in there. Prevention is one thing we need to do. We need to continue to break the cycle early. They put more money into public defenders. Agrees that workforce is a concern. They approved \$10 million in Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) services in the jail.
- **JoAnn Miller** – Appreciates law enforcement involvement. With the recriminalization aspect, does it change the law back to previous law with anyone in possession of an illegal substance can be arrested? Agrees that we have too many committees. There are efforts that could be handled locally. Are they looking at MAT programs in the jails? Understands medical staff administers MAT.
- **Curtis Landers, Lincoln County Sheriff:**
 - a. The District Attorney wants Class A Misdemeanor. There was a lot of communication and wanting Class C Misdemeanor. Came out as “unclassified” Misdemeanor, which would carry potential jail time of up to 30 days only for probation violations or up to 180 days when a defendant’s probation is revoked. They would get an early release from jail if they entered inpatient or outpatient treatment.
 - b. “Yes,” they can arrest, but first would deflection.
 - c. MAT – Have 3 part time nurses. Has a provider that comes in and does MAT. They do collaborate closely with the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, and they help as well. Have full confidence in Lalori Lager and her group that oversees the Navigator.
- **Jef Van Arsdall, Benton County Sheriff** – They have seven day a week nurse coverage and have signed an agreement with Benton County Health Department. Could learn from the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) program in Lincoln County.
- **JoAnn Miller** – We need to look at substance use disorder (SUD) as a disease and a treatable disease and having law enforcement do the criminal part with medical treatment while incarcerated is important. We want to make sure that we have in our communities an effective way to treat SUD. We struggle when we have people ready for treatment and there are no beds for clients.
- **Lonnie Martinez** – From a workforce development perspective, pleased to see what has come along. Works with a lot coming into the workforce and what they have overcome to get where they are. Believes in self-accountability and getting people rehabilitated and getting back into the workforce.
- **Jennifer Beckner** – One important thing is removing prior authorization for MAT. This was huge barrier. With Oregon Health Plan and private insurance plans, refills for MAT are changing.
- **Blue Valentine** – Has seen an increase in Xylazine in Oregon. Has concerns with detox and incarcerated. Xylazine withdrawal can be fatal. Fatal overdose rates in Washington increased after recriminalization. Hoping that does not happen in Oregon.

Millennium Health Signals Report:

Jolynn Meza Wynkoop and JoAnn Miller shared the Millenium Health Signals Report – The “Fourth Wave” – The Rise of Stimulants and the Evolution of Polysubstance Use in America’s Fentanyl Crisis.

- From 2013-2021, the number of Fentanyl-involved overdose deaths totaled nearly 261,000.
- Urine drug test (UDT) data have shown to significantly correlate with national overdose mortality patterns over time.
- On page 4 of the report, there are a couple of charts that shows comparison of Fentanyl UDT data and Fentanyl-related overdose mortality.
- For the first time, in 2023 both methamphetamine and cocaine were detected in Fentanyl-positive UDT specimens more often than Heroin and prescription opioids nationally and in nearly every state.
- Nearly 93% of Fentanyl-positive specimens in 2023 contained additional drugs including a wide range of potentially dangerous drugs.
- **James Page** – Where is the data pulled from? Is it the Millennium Lab?
 - a. **Jolynn Meza Wynkoop** – Data is from across the states.
 - b. **Morgan Goss, Millennium Health** – They get data from all 50 states. 60% positive had methamphetamine on board nationally. Oregon had approximately 70%. They can share more Oregon data.
- **Morgan Goss** – They operate in all 50 states. It is cohesive data showing accurate descriptions.
- **Shelli Alinari-Beebe** – What about other agencies that do urine specimens? Can we get compiled data?
- **Morgan Goss** – Millennium Health does provide data. Is depicting for broader scheme. They partner with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) so we can trust the data.
- **James Page** – A lot of treatment centers in Oregon are seeing Xylazine. Seems like a lot more seen in the East Coast. Was simply curious about this.
 - a. **Morgan Goss** – You are correct – Seeing more Xylazine on the East Coast. It has now worked its way over.
 - b. **James Page** – If we pay attention to Florida in the new year, we may see what will be coming our way.

Update – Regional Overdoses:

JoAnn Miller led discussions around regional overdoses. The following reports were noted: Samaritan Health Services (SHS) – Individual Overdose Report – Reporting Period: February 1, 2024-February 29, 2024; SHS 2024 Data; Law Enforcement Individual Overdose Report – Reporting Period: February 2024 – Albany Police Department, Linn County Sheriff’s Office, Lebanon Police Department, Sweet Home Police Department, Oregon State Police; Benton County Overdoses Report – January 1, 2024-March 7, 2024.

- **JoAnn Miller** – We are seeing some trends continuing with those under 18 overdosing. We do not want to lose focus on our youth.
- **James Page** – One of the treatment centers in NE Portland reported that their census grew 40 patients. They are reporting that they are no longer seeing Fentanyl like before within the last month and are only finding heroin. Feels that this is startling information.
- **JoAnn Miller** – “Yes,” agrees this is starting.
 - a. In looking at the SHS report, Samaritan North Lincoln Hospital (SNLH) and Samaritan Pacific Communities Hospital (SPCH) had high numbers of overdoses based on their population for January and February 2024 – SPCH at 9 in January and 7 in February and SNLH with 5 in January and 4 in February.

- b. Samaritan Albany General Hospital (SAGH) went down in February 2024 from January 2024 with 4 overdoses in February compared to 14 overdoses in January.
- c. Linn County is seeing an increase in overdoses compared to last year.
- d. We are seeing increases in our rural communities, and we need to pay attention to this.
- **Blue Valentine** – Their numbers are behind. There is an increase in the community distribution at food banks, but we are not getting as many community-based reports back. Overdoses are under reported. Most all the local food banks distribute Naloxone.
- **Jef Van Arsdall, Benton County Sheriff** - Over the last couple of weeks, staff were dispatched to a scene and Naloxone had already been administered.
- **Jennifer Beckner:**
 - a. Last week, sat on the Opioid Settlement Board. They have access to additional funds for the Clearing House.
 - b. With the election coming up, the post office has reached out for Narcan. There is concern for the possibility of getting ballots back with powder. Would like for the mailroom and the clerk's office.
 - c. Lincoln County has a lot more kids requesting Narcan with concern for their family members/friends. Narcan is becoming the norm. It is an unfortunate opportunity to get prevention in the schools.

Behavioral Health Resource Network (BHRN) Updates:

Behavioral Health Resource Network updates were provided.

- **Thien Nguyen, Linn County:**
 - a. The Linn County partners are working hard to support individuals actively using substances or diagnosed with substance use disorder.
 - b. Family Tree Relief Nursery continues to do youth outreach and finished another Peer Support Specialist training course with 20 people attending. They have also been doing presentations with the Oregon Youth Authority showing youths and counselor the services that are available to the youths once they turn 18.
 - c. Communities Helping All Negotiate Change Effectively (C.H.A.N.C.E.) continues to provide peer support training.
 - d. Samaritan Treatment and Recovery Services (STARS) is building connections with other partners and continues to provide outreach activities in Linn and Lincoln counties, collaborating with community partners.
- **James Page** – Seeing substances by population. Some more stimulant and opioid and others merge everything. Seeing Benzodiazepines mixed into – Using methamphetamine and Fentanyl and come in with Benzodiazepines as well. It is common to see in the same pill.
- **Rocio Badger** – Avalon Mason was unable to attend, but she can provide a Benton County update at the next meeting.
- **Jennifer Beckner, Lincoln County:**
 - a. Reconnections Counseling has added harm reduction services. They are not a BHRN partner. When bringing all teams together it is a wonderful opportunity to see what services each organization provides, including outside partners.
 - b. Some do not realize that a nurse travels with the harm reduction team for Lincoln County Health and Human Services. They can send the nurse out to help partners with some cases. Her role has shifted to be more involved in direct services.

- c. Working on a way to contract with Reconnections Counseling, with clinician offer support services the harm reduction team.
- d. Also, coordinated serves with the harm reduction team and Phoenix Wellness to get a client into treatment and provide transfer.
- e. Working to get the Unite Us platform set up.
- f. Lincoln County Health and Human Services is getting the Co-Occurring Disorder Group together.
- g. Did hire a Resource Navigator for the winter shelter and is working with those that are unhoused.
- h. Partners are all working well with one another.
- i. HB 4002 still is not addressing funds through the Oregon Accountability Council and is hoping they will reconsider regional applications. Jayne Romero and others will be meeting with legislators.
- **Tanya Pritt** – Is C.H.A.N.C.E. doing treatment?
 - a. **Emma Deane** – C.H.A.N.C.E. does not provide treatment. C.H.A.N.C.E. provides peer support and will connect people to treatment and transport as needed. C.H.A.N.C.E. has high barrier dorms and a family dorm. Adding 42 beds for low barrier.
- **Tanya Pritt** – Milestones is a BHRN partner. Housing is full. There is walk in services for outpatients. Peer services are active. There are great partnerships among the BHRN partners.
- **Josh Pankau** – Family Tree Relief Nursery is also in Benton County as well. The office location is next to the Old Spaghetti Factory on 2nd. There are 4 peer staff there.

Announcements/Additional Business:

Announcements and additional business were shared.

- **JoAnn Miller** – Will be applying for a new HRSA Impact Grant for Rural Communities. It is a treatment, recovery, and sustainability grant. It is a rural grant that has a justice component to it. There will only be 16 grants offered the country. The grant is due on May 6, 2024.
 - a. **Josh Pankau**- Would love to include STARS in the conversations around the grant.
 - b. **JoAnn Miller** – “Yes,” will include several partners in the conversation. The application is 68 pages, and she can share if anyone is interested in seeing it.
- **JoAnn Miller** – The HRSA site visit is scheduled for May 15-17, 2024. The Project Officers and Technical Assistants will be coming to meet about the different grants. We are working out all the details. We want to share with our federal officers all the things happening in the region around our different grants. They will visit with and hear presentations with different partner organizations (still working out details) and may include: the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, Northwest Coastal Housing-Coastal Phoenix Rising, Family Tree Relief Nursery, Reconnections Counseling, Samaritan House, Partnership Against Alcohol and Drug Abuse (PAADA), Olalla Center, Lincoln County Health and Human Services, Faith, Hope and Charity, ABC House, Sarah’s Place, CARDV, Human Trafficking Coalition, Linn County Alcohol and Drug Program, a tour of STARS, as well as visit with Capitol Dental Care representatives and the Oral Health Co-Location Project at Samaritan Pacific Communities Hospital.
- **Jennifer Beckner** – Oregon Health Plan 1115 Waiver for Medicaid was approved. It opened funding. The first group of applications are due next week.

Lincoln County Health and Human Services will not be focusing on the first round of funding. The 2024 Waiver is around housing, nutrition, and climate control. Money is coming through the CCO's.

- **Jennifer Beckner** - The 2024 Oregon Pain Conference put on by Lines for Life is scheduled April 29, 2024, through May 1, 2024, in Sunriver. Registration is open. Lodging is full. Jennifer Beckner noted she would be attending the event.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the Regional Mental Health/Substance Use Disorder Coalition is scheduled for April 8, 2024, at 10:30 a.m.

Adjourn:

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Shelley Hazelton
Community Health Promotion