



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

**Participants:** Jennifer Beckner, McKaila Allcorn, DO, Rubi Arizmendi, Maisa Athamneh, Shelagh Baird, Suzie Beaupre, Brandon Bates, Jason Brown, PA-C, Belit Burke, Marty Cahill, Stephanie Dreiling, Lalori Lager, Callie Lamendola-Gilliam, Avalon Mason, Michelle Means, Rocio Munez, Thien Nguyen, Jesse Noble, Stephan O’Hair, Christiana Sechrest, Tanya Pritt, Miranda Tasker, Jennifer Thelander, Justin Thomas, Blue Valentine, Jef Van Arsdall, Benton County Sheriff, Jennifer Will, and Shelley Hazelton

**Welcome/Introductions:**

Jennifer Beckner welcomed everyone to the meeting and led introductions.

**Meeting Minutes:**

The May 13, 2024, meeting minutes of the Regional Mental Health/Substance Use Disorder Coalition were presented. **Shelagh Baird made a motion and Callie Lamendola-Gilliam 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.

**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 was noted and distributed prior to the meeting.

**Shelagh Baird made a motion and Lalori Lager 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 as presented. The motion was voted upon and unanimously approved.**

## Update – Regional Overdoses:

Jennifer Beckner led discussions around regional overdoses.

- The Samaritan Health Services – Individual Overdose Report – Reporting Period: May 1, 2024 – May 31, 2024, was noted.
  - a. Good Samaritan Regional Medical Center (GSRMC) – 11 overdoses in the month of May.
  - b. Samaritan Albany General Hospital (SAGH) – 12 overdoses in the month of May.
  - c. Samaritan Lebanon Community Hospital (SLCH) – 8 overdoses in the month of May.
  - d. Samaritan North Lincoln Hospital (SNLH) – 3 overdoses in the month of May.
  - e. Samaritan Pacific Communities Hospital (SPCH) – 0 overdoses in the month of May.
  - f. **Jennifer Will** – There were a couple of fatal overdoses in younger women.
- **Jennifer Beckner:**
  - a. Looking forward to having a new Medical Examiner for Lincoln County through Lincoln County Health and Human Services.
  - b. There are unreported overdoses that they are hearing from Harm Reduction.
  - c. We are doing better with stigma and awareness. Wish more people would tell their story.
  - d. Working on an emergency response for overdoses in Lincoln County. Looking at what systems are in place and will have a wraparound plan for survivors.
- **Michelle Means** – Attends the Linn Together meetings. Can provide resources. Linn Together (meetings take place virtually once per month) is creating a task force to gather information about resources/prevention strategies to address fentanyl specifically.  
<https://linntogether.org/resources/fentanyl-conversation-starters/>  
Fentanyl Conversation Starters – Linn Together – Fueled by fentanyl, the number of overdose deaths in Oregon has soared since 2019. Protect your kids from the risks of fentanyl by starting the conversation.
- **Jef Van Arsdall, Benton County Sheriff:**
  - a. There were 65 overdoses year to date.
  - b. There were 3 fatal overdose deaths for the year through the beginning of June.
- **Blue Valentine:**
  - a. Has not been getting as much reporting and not as many overdoses as before.
  - b. A big piece is secondary distribution – Reports from food bank, social services, and others.
  - c. Received 2 reports in May of overdoses without a 911 call.
  - d. Working on Support After a Death by Overdose (SADOD). Connecting with the state of Massachusetts. Gabriel Quaglia, Community Health Worker, SADOD – Direct Service Provider Program Manager – [gabriel@peersupportcommunitypartners.com](mailto:gabriel@peersupportcommunitypartners.com) 413-437-0930.
  - e. Have support groups – Parents/Siblings. Will share information.
  - f. Can respond out after an event and offer support.
  - g. Harm Reduction goes out twice a month to Monroe and have support group as well.
  - h. There is also a mutual aid support group.
  - i. **Jennifer Beckner** – Blue Valentine and her team are doing innovative things. Will reach out for more information.

- **Suzie Beaupre** – In a county I used to work at, our behavioral health provider was responsible for supporting family members after completed suicides. I do not know if there are agencies that are responsible for responding to that, but we could base an overdose follow-up/wrap around services off those. There is also a national organization called Opioid Response Network. They provide free technical assistance for substance use prevention related efforts. They could be helpful if we are looking into any type of stigma reduction or overdose response protocol development.
- **Jesse Noble** – Will be attending a regional End-Of-Life-Doula meeting later. Will request information pertaining to overdose-related supports. If find anything, will share with the group.
- **Blue Valentine** – This organization is also active, with online zoom support groups, and works in parallel with SADOD – <https://www.thesunwillrise.org/>

### **Behavioral Health Resource Network (BHRN) Updates:**

Behavioral Health Resource Network updates were provided.

- **Thien Nguyen – Linn County:**
  - a. A written report was noted.
  - b. Had a good meeting last week with the Behavioral Health Resource Network for Linn County. The BHRN group is continuing to grow as a network.
  - c. Recovery in the Park is scheduled for July 9, 2024, from 5:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. at Bryant Park in Albany.
  - d. Family Tree Wellness Network will be running a Peer Wellness Training starting July 29, 2024, with slots still open for those interested.
  - e. Working with the RC-SWAY grant and HIWAY grant regarding collaborative outreach events.
  - f. Albany Comprehensive Treatment Center will have a BHRN partner offering peer support services at their clinic on Mondays.
  - g. Samaritan Treatment and Recovery Services (STARS) continues with outreach and collaboration with other BHRN partners.
- **Avalon Mason – Benton County** – Spending funds effectively and looking forward to upcoming developments from the state and the phone line.
- **Jennifer Beckner – Lincoln County:**
  - a. There has been discussion on the BHRN process and what changes are coming or what can change at the legislation level.
  - b. Met with the former District Attorney in Lincoln County that is now a professor working privately in legislation around substance use disorder (SUD) and legislative bills. Brought to their group that we need help with advocacy.
  - c. With the National Association of Counties on Mental Health and Wellbeing, feels we have a strong voice and with those in behavioral health and can bring in the conversation.
  - d. Oregon Health Authority (OHA) is focusing on rollout of the next BHRN funding. May dismantle Oversight and Accountability Council (OAC) and funnel funds through the counties. Working with OAC members and there are discussions and concerns. It is a different roll out. OHA does not have the capacity to monitor the data. Had a partner count every time they had a contact with a client.
  - e. **Tanya Pritt** – You are right. Had a conversation on Measure 110 and people turn in data sheets was counting the number of interactions.

Peers said how many times had interaction was counter to – Data must have a purpose. Felt was dishonest.

- f. **Jennifer Beckner** – Had a different grant monitor who is right and what they are supposed to do. It is difficult to do if operate off separate instructions. The Oregon Secretary of State’s Office did an audit. Did not realize we are not the only state agency looking at the process. The report is ready to release from the State Justice Department. It is being held back currently.
  - g. There is funding coming to the counties now. If we could all coordinate better, would be an opportunity to close gaps.
  - h. Jennifer Beckner noted that she manages resource navigators and with the community shelter there has been issues with people refusing surgery and services when there is a bed ready for them. They are refusing due to their animals. This is something we did not anticipate. We can figure out the different barriers.
  - i. One big thing in the past is that we had a strong Drug/Alcohol Council in our community who reviewed plans and the group knew what to do. We need a good place where like minded people come together.
  - j. Excited about the Lincoln County Sheriff’s Office and doing the subsequential intersect mapping. Starting to talk about the deflection program.
  - k. Do not feel like we have all the people to fill all the positions before creating a new program.
- **Jesse Noble** – Animals can be a barrier to both housing and treatment for many of our harm reduction clients interested in those referrals.
  - **Jef Van Arsdall, Benton County Sheriff** – We completed a SIM in Benton County in March and will present the final recommendations to the WCJC tomorrow. We had almost 50 participants in the SIM. Brought community partners together.
    - a. The Commissioner is an advocate. Excited for the subsequential intersect mapping document.
    - b. Need a detox facility. Could be different for each community identified.
    - c. Collaborates closely with Blue Valentine and the Health Department.
    - d. Validating what we do and giving suggestions. “There is no wrong door.” We need to keep fighting the good fight.
  - **Jennifer Beckner:**
    - a. Detox comes up all the time.
    - b. Not sure if detox is what we are talking about. There are alternatives such as stabilization centers – A place where an officer can bring someone to calm down or even a crisis center. Did not realize there is a big difference in crisis vs. stabilization. Conversations continue in Lincoln County.
    - c. Focusing on deflection program planning.
    - d. Have great law enforcement presence in this group. The Sheriff’s Office in Lincoln County has been a great champion.
    - e. Have a proposal due this week for funding. Hope to have a street outreach position with harm reduction. Currently, has a nurse that goes out with harm reduction.
    - f. They have great harm reduction with the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians. Lalori Lager has a great harm reduction team.
    - g. When struggling with meals and where to stay, last thing to think about is preventable care. Feels confident in leadership in Lincoln County.
    - h. Met with the Commissioner on Measure 110 role out.

- **Tanya Pritt** – Blows her mind – We need detox. It is different with social detox vs. medical. Medical is needed. Have people that never wait. There is detox at Bridgeway, Power House, Buckley. Client choice is important. There are four treatment centers that are not at capacity, but not enough staff. With being on Board of Communities Helping All Negotiate Change Effectively (C.H.A.N.C.E.) and Michelle Shannon and C.H.A.N.C.E. were proposing developing kennels for those that want outpatient treatment to have a plan for taking care of dogs/cats and bringing up at meetings. Developing policy around animals and safety and places. Way back, OHA put prevention in public health, and it was a disaster. Prevention is part of continuum of treatment. Cannot do treatment without working with families. Prevention and treatment meet.
- **Jennifer Beckner** – Discussion of moving back to the state level. Was asked to be part of a workgroup to get something better in place.
  - a. Linn Together is a great Coalition. Wish they had something like that in Lincoln County. Prevention is so important on the state level.
  - b. Oregon used to have a robust model in place. The State of Oregon has money set aside for a cohort of CTS's. Opioid settlement money/funding is coming down. Hope there will be conversations. Would like to get out to the community.
  - c. Reconnections Counseling has been a great partner.
- **Suzie Beaupre** – Has there ever been a regional assessment related to opioid settlement funds/BHRN grants to help identify region wide priorities? I know that Comagine has experience doing those types of comprehensive assessments.
  - a. **Jennifer Beckner** – Do not think so. Would be a great resource. Would need outside group to help guide the process.
- **Jason Brown, PA-C** – Would love to see having outpatient clinics collaborate with outpatient treatment clinics to treat it like we do in primary care. That is like a primary care medical home. People struggling with SUD need to have a safe healing place that their care needs to be simplified.
- **Jennifer Beckner** – Jason Brown, PA-C, is one of our original Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) providers. Agrees with Jason Brown, PA-C. Have a great team and working on plan with STARS. We work best when we work regionally and have a unified message and unified approach. Talked with Justin Thomas and his team are impressive. They have been around for a long time and the Life Skills program in the schools is great.

#### **Additional Business:**

Additional business was discussed.

- **Suzie Beaupre** – Is excited about this group. Glad to see so many partners. Have space to do coordination. Could be duplication of efforts with opioid settlement funds and BHRN.
- **Jennifer Beckner** – JoAnn Miller has retired. She was a great asset. If anyone has agenda items for future meetings, let her know.
- **Tanya Pritt** – JoAnn Miller was a force in our region and took on projects with compassion. Would learn something new when around her.
- **Jason Brown, PA-C** – Doing Sublocade and gave first Brixadi injection last week. Offering weekly injections. Trying to work with Lalori Lager to go there and would love to offer Sublocade by the end of the year.
- **Jennifer Beckner** – Safeway in Lincoln County is doing Sublocade shots. Concern with treatment and no behavioral health or anything to support a client. Reaching out to Jesse Noble to talk with Pharmacists on resources available.

- **Jennifer Beckner** – Adding Street outreach with winter shelter. Want Harm Reduction to take Sublocade out into the community with those having inductions. Collaborates also with a team out of Multnomah County on street outreach. It is an impressive team program to have with warm handoffs. People should not be seen at the last minute. Would love to meet with Jason Brown, PA-C sometime.

**Next Meeting:**

Discussion focused on changing the July 8<sup>th</sup> meeting date or canceling due to being a summer month and vacations and people traveling. *Members present agreed to cancel the July meeting.*

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

**Adjourn:**

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Shelley Hazelton  
Community Health Promotion