



POLK FIT, FRESH and FRIENDLY
May 25, 2017
12:00 Noon, Polk County Library

MEETING MINUTES

Attendees: Jennifer Massey, Ben Ellington, Michele Trofatter, Linda Greensfelder, Jill Kimsey, Anne Moss, Rob Fuller, Lisa McAlpine, Samantha Collins, Sonia Eldridge, Linda Davidson, Laura Ellington, Pam Coppedge, Migs, Halpern, Gordon Schneider, Jerry Stensland, Buffy Ashmore, Lou Parton, Kathy Harding, Peggy Franklin, Josh Kennedy, Erika Smoker, Amanda Fisher, Mike Melton, Daniyelle Brooks, Anne Britton, Michelle Reedy, B.J. Bayne, Lee Lindsay, Kathy Woodham, Karen Goodale

Jerry is taking Jimmi's place today. Introductions were made by attendees.

Minutes: Jerry made a motion to approve the March 2017 minutes. Ben seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Speakers for our Mental and Behavioral Health Education Panel: Linda Davidson, Laura Ellington, Dr. Belynda Vesper, Sonia Eldridge, Pam Coppedge, Migs Halpren, Dr. Gordon Schneider

Linda Davidson and Laura Ellington- Blue Ridge Health (BRH) formally known as BRCHS has expanded and now are BRH. They are a Federally Qualified Health Center funded through the Federal Government. They currently have two offices in Hendersonville, an office in Rutherford, Haywood, Sylva, Polk, etc. They run five school based health programs in Hendersonville. Group and individual behavioral therapy is offered at all sites. They offer screening for alcohol, drugs and mental health as well as offering medication. Case Management is performed by Nurse Practitioner and Psychiatrist and patients can be referred by counselors. Medicated assisted treatment is available, such Suboxone and there are translators on site. Perinatal psychiatry is offered in the Hendersonville and Arden offices. They can treat everything that is considered mental health in the diagnostic books. In 2015 BRH had 13,000 behavioral health encounters. They have had a 26% growth rate in 2017 and are projecting 21,000 patients to be seen this year. They have offered 166 medication assisted treatment encounters which they expect to reach 500 by end of year. Fourteen hundred substance abuse and counseling visits were recorded November 2016 to April 2017. Services that are currently available in Polk County include: a Psychiatric Nurse on Wednesdays, Bridges to Health on Tuesdays with Dr. Vesper, and Manna Food Bank twice a month. They have a Healthcare Navigator onsite (Maria Hernandez,) that has access to local resources. Mental health is identified as the number one need through the community survey.

They are a sliding fee scale and fees are based on income. Information on payments are posted and provided at the front desk. Minimum payment is \$25, however no one is turned away. They accept any insurance including Medicaid and Medicare. Currently, they have very few providers that will see children. Rainbow Pediatrics in Hendersonville will be seeing children in Hendersonville. They currently have one bi-lingual therapist in Hendersonville. All staff at Polk Health reception desk are bi-lingual.

Bridges to Health is grant funded and Free of Charge- Dr. Belynda Veser. This program is designed to fill the gap for individuals that do not have access to care. Provide services to increase access to mental and physical care, etc. The goal is to reduce ER visits and improve health. They currently meet at Blue Ridge Health and there are two patients enrolled at this time.

Sonia Eldridge and Pam Coppedge -Vaya Health- Vaya Health is in the process of developing a facility for children and adolescents located in Buncombe County. Caiyalynn Burrell Child Crisis Center will be a 16 bed facility open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Plans are to open in late September or early October 2017. Facility will be located at 277 Biltmore Avenue which is currently the Neil Dobbins Center. Vaya Health works closely with Family Prevention Services. Powerpoint handout will be available via email or on PF3 website. They will work closely with Mobile Crisis Management, who can do the initial assessment and refer to the center. Patients do not have to be inpatient. The facility will be considered a medical non-hospital facility. This program is funded through Medicaid of NC Health Choice. Each child will be followed by psychiatric team at Mission and will leave the facility with a referral to care within their own community. Care will be provided on first come, first serve basis. Telephone screenings will be available with bed holding for incoming patients. Discharge transport will also be available in addition to medical translators.

Migs Halpren, RHA Mobile Crisis- 24/7 365... dispatchers are located in Buncombe County. Mental, Substance and IDD crisis services are offered. Assessments are provided face to face and will need consent of guardian unless law enforcement is involved. RHA creates a safety plan with the consumer and tries to avoid hospitalizations. They can provide transport for adults to hospital if needed. IVC is a last resort service offered by RHA. There is no charge for services, which are covered by IPRS- State and Medicaid also. Undocumented patients are accepted; however only a few staff are bi-lingual.

Dr. Gordon Schneider, Physician- Director of Mental Health Services – located in Dr. Viar's office. Dr. Schneider says that we still need prevention services to get to the next level. A handout was provided on ways to stay calm and included reminders about taking care of ourselves. He suggests that support and encouragement is needed from anyone in the community.

PF3 will be presenting to County Commissioners on Monday, June 5, 2017. PF3 Board Members asked that everyone please attend to support the coalition. Visit the website; it is new and available for online donations. An account has also been created through Amazon Smile for donations.

Lou Parton announced that she met with the WIC program staff and was concerned that patient numbers are decreasing. She distributed handouts and ask that everyone help promote the program.

The Hear2Help program will provide training for DSS staff on June 8, 2017. Trainings are also scheduled for Polk County Transportation. The H2H resource guide is available on the PF3 website and is continuously updated. If you have any questions, or if you know of an organization that would benefit from the H2H program, please contact Buffy Ashmore.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:05pm.