

**North Dakota  
Behavioral Health Planning Council  
October 17, 2018**

**Meeting Minutes, Approved**

**BHPC Members Present:** Lorraine Davis, Chairperson (Member at Large); Kurt Snyder, Vice Chairperson (Individual in Recovery, SUD); Carlotta McCleary (ND Federation of Families for Children’s Mental Health); Pamela Sagness (Principal State Agency: Mental Health); Kim Osadchuk (Principal State Agency: Social Services); Jennifer Henderson (Principal State Agency: Housing); Carl Young (Family Member of a Child with SED); Deb Jendro (Individual in Recovery, MH); Rosalie Etherington (DHS Behavioral Health Service Delivery System); Shauna Eberhardt (Family Member of a Veteran); Robin Lang (Principal State Agency: Education); Jeffrey Herman (Private Substance Use Disorder Treatment Provider); Brad Hawk (Indian Affairs Commission); Teresa Larsen (Protection and Advocacy); Aimee Volk (Vocational Rehabilitation); Timothy Wicks (Veteran); Tom Regan (Mental Health America of ND); Lisa Peterson (Principal State Agency: Criminal Justice); Stacey Hunt (Private Mental Health Provider); Paul Stroklund (Family Member of a Child with SED); Michelle Gayette (Aging Services Division); Brenda Bergsrud (Consumer Family Network); Debbie Baier (Principal State Agency: Medicaid); Kirby Schmidtgal (ND National Guard).

**Others Present:** Melissa Burnette (HSRI); Bevin Croft (HSRI); Tami Conrad (ND Department of Human Services); Sean Cleary (Office of the Governor); Laura Anderson (ND Department of Human Services).

**Facilitation:** Greg Gallagher, The Consensus Council, Inc.

**Call to Order and Welcome:** Lorraine Davis, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 10:08 AM, CT, and welcomed BHPC members and guests to the meeting.

**Quorum:** A quorum was recorded.

**Approval of July 10, 2018 Meeting Minutes:** Chairperson Davis presented the minutes from the July 10, 2018, BHPC meeting for review.

KURT SNYDER MADE AND ROSALIE ETHERINGTON SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MEETING MINUTES OF JULY 10, 2018. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

The minutes will be forwarded to BHPC members and posted for public review.

**Acceptance of Agenda.** Chairperson Davis reviewed and accepted the October 17, 2018, meeting agenda as presented.

**Presentation: Sean Cleary, Policy Advisor, Office of the Governor.** Chairperson Davis introduced Sean Cleary, Policy Advisor, Office of the Governor. Mr. Cleary, on behalf of the Governor’s Office, extended his gratitude to all BHPC members for the service they provide to the state. Mr. Cleary presented an overview of recent statewide events, including the behavioral health conference and suicide prevention efforts. The Governor’s Office sees the ND Behavioral Health System Study, conducted by HSRI, as the key blueprint for the state’s strategic efforts going forward. There is an emerging interdisciplinary effort regarding behavioral health, covering health,

education, social services, criminal justice, workforce development, and more. The HSRI report identifies the state's services gaps and lays out possible solutions involving public and private agencies and providers. The ND Department of Labor has recently received a three-year grant to examine various licensing procedures, including behavioral health professionals. The Center for Rural Health has recently released its review of health professional needs into the future, a critical issue identified within the HSRI report. Going forward into the forthcoming legislative session, leaders have identified behavioral health as an emerging issue in need of attention. The state needs to provide services in the least restrictive environment, reflecting the requirements of the Olmstead Decision. The Governor will soon be issuing an executive order to create a task force on veterans' services, including establishing a governance structure that will support veteran's full range of needs. The Children's Behavioral Health Task Force is proceeding with its work that should support the BHPC initiatives. The Governor's Office is proceeding with its preparations on a guiding budget for the 2019 Legislative Session.

BHPC members raised a series of issues for the Governor's Office consideration, including (1) impressing the need to incorporate as many proposals from the HSRI study as possible into the Governor's Budget Recommendations; (2) encouraging the Governor's Office to oppose Measure #3, related to recreational marijuana; (3) attending to supports for at-risk families, including respite and financial support services, which oftentimes require families to initiate foster care proceedings in order for children to access services; (4) advancing the provisions of the Family First Act; (5) extending financial supports for home-based care to lessen the costs of other institutional or out-of-state care services; (6) attending to the prioritized systemic issues identified in the HSRI report and funding some of these issues now, while avoiding piecemeal efforts, to move the state forward; (7) providing services in rural areas, respecting regional differences; (8) supporting efforts to optimize Indian Health Services and Medicaid health coverage, approaching 100% coverage; (9) addressing excessive caseloads for providers, including veterans and human service centers; (10) supporting additional suicide prevention programs for veterans; (11) evidencing the state's commitment to invest in crucial service areas which would allow private providers to move forward in seeking financial commitments; (12) highlighting peer support services as a viable service model; (13) identifying and addressing racial and health stigmas and the experience of shame that hold people back from seeking services or providing supports; (14) recognizing the issues outlined in the BHPC letter to the Governor.

Chairperson Davis thanked Mr. Cleary for his comments and discussion with BHPC members.

**Presentation on HSRI Report & Future Implementation Activities: Dr. Bevin Croft and Pam Sagness.** Chairperson Davis introduced Dr. Bevin Croft and Pam Sagness to provide information regarding the implementation plan for the ND Behavioral Health Systems Study, authored by HSRI. Dr. Croft presented an overview of the next phase of the implementation of the ND Behavioral Health System Study (NDBHSS), facilitated by HSRI, under contract with the ND Department of Human Services, Behavioral Health Division. Implementation activity will focus on two primary NDBHSS goals: Goal 1, develop a comprehensive implementation plan, and Goal 13, conduct ongoing, system-wide, data-driven monitoring of needs and access. Dr. Croft proposed that the BHPC act as the steering committee for the implementation of the NDBHSS recommendations, involving ongoing system monitoring, planning, and facilitating improvements in the long-term. Under this proposal, the BHPC would serve as the hub organization, coordinating the collaborative efforts of the state's various behavioral health specialty organizations, including the Children's Behavioral Health Task Force, Tribal-State Health Council, Behavioral Health Workforce Work Group, ND Brain Injury Network, Dual Status Youth Initiative, Free Through

Recovery, ND Rural Health Learning Collaborative Team, Physical BH Integration Work Group, Prevention Work Group, 1915(i) Work Group, among other organizations.

Activity would move forward in four phases: (1) strategic planning (October, 2018); (2) prioritization and refinement (November- December, 2018); (3) initiation (January – March, 2019); (4) monitoring and sustaining (April – June, 2019). Work activities would be recorded using a goal matrix template and strategic plan protocol. The central protocol would aid in articulating roles of the various organizations, providing a strategy for ensuring ongoing alignment with existing initiatives, providing processes for group coordination and communication, and managing processes for ensuring meaningful and ongoing stakeholder engagement.

Members expressed general support for the proposal and expressed a note of concern that sufficient resources and support could be provided to assist both the BHPC and the Consensus Council in conducting their duties. Ms. Sagness stated that the Department of Human Services will provide communication tools to support the BHPC's work and will review any contract work to assess adequate financial support. The challenge of working on NDBHSS priority recommendations will require focusing attention to policies, initiatives, and funding. The established timelines attempt to optimize activities within the 2019 Legislative Session, requiring an intensive December schedule, yet foresee that this process will be iterative and long term. The state, including its various behavioral health organizations, must own this process, and this proposal places the BHPC at the center of the planning and collaboration process.

CARLOTTA McCLEARY MADE AND JEFF HERMAN SECONDED A MOTION THAT THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PLANNING COUNCIL ACCEPT THE INVITATION FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DIVISION, AND HSRI, TO SERVE AS THE OVERSIGHT STEERING COMMITTEE TO COORDINATE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STATE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SYSTEM STUDY WITH KEY STATEWIDE STAKEHOLDER GROUPS.

Members requested that the BHPC set up a universal access point for members to provide ongoing input over the course of the implementation activities. Tami Conrad stated that the Department of Human Services is working to roll out a Microsoft Platform tool or another public access point to aid BHPC discussions and support transparent public viewing. Members commented on the possibility of seeking other outside funding, such as a Community Innovation Grant, to further support this work.

KURT SNYDER CALLED FOR AND CHAIRPERSON DAVIS DECLARED THE QUESTION AND PUT THE MOTION FORWARD FOR THE VOTE OF THE MEMBERS.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Chairperson Davis declared a break for lunch.

### **BHPC Work Session**

Chairperson Davis called the BHPC back into session and requested a motion to amend the agenda to conduct official business prior to the exiting of committee officers. Mr. Gallagher provided BHPC bylaws background information leading to possible votes by the BHPC, including the BHPC affirming the work of the BHPC executive committee in administering the work of facilitating its

steering committee responsibilities, and issuing invitations to other state committees to join in the work of implementing the HSRI study.

TERESA LARSEN MADE AND CARLOTTA McCLEARY SECONDED A MOTION TO AMEND THE AGENDA TO CONDUCT COMMITTEE WORK PRIOR TO ENTERTAINING COMMITTEE REPORTING.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Chairperson Davis entertained committee action to move forward with establishing a process for the BHPC to administer its steering committee duties, implementing the state's behavioral health system study.

Members identified the need for the BHPC to fill the vacant BHPC Executive Committee slots to provide the BHPC with the benefit of a full Executive Committee slate. Members discussed publishing the announcement of the election for these vacant slots at the next regularly scheduled BHPC meeting. Chairperson Davis requested that the announcement of the election for these vacant slots be scheduled and publicly announced in anticipation of the next BHPC regularly scheduled meeting.

CARL YOUNG MADE AND CARLOTTA McCLEARY SECONDED THE CONSENT OF THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PLANNING COUNCIL FOR THE COUNCIL'S EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TO PROCEED ON ITS BEHALF, WORKING IN CONCERT WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DIVISION, TO ADVANCE THE PLANNING OF THE COUNCIL'S STEERING COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Chairperson Davis invited the BHPC to consider issuing an invitation to the various state behavioral health advisory committees to participate in the activities of implementing the state behavioral health system study, under the BHPC's steering committee role.

CARLOTTA McCLEARY MADE AND TOM REGAN SECONDED A MOTION INSTRUCTING THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PLANNING COUNCIL'S EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TO PROCEED, WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DIVISION, AND HSRI, TO ESTABLISH A PROCESS TO ISSUE INVITATIONS AND RECEIVE COMMITMENTS OF STATE EXTERNAL STAKEHOLDER ORGANIZATIONS AS PARTNERS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STATE'S BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SYSTEMS STUDY.

Dr. Croft requested that the members of the BHPC provide names of potential stakeholder groups for consideration of invitation to the implementation process. Ms. Sagness recommended that a general letter be issued allowing various organizations to consider volunteering their participation in this implementation process. BHPC implementation activities can form the basis for regular reporting back to these constituent organizations.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Ms. Sagness announced that a Recovery Reinvented, Peer Support Day will be conducted on November 7, 2018, sponsored by the Governor's Office and the Department of Human Services, at the State Capitol. Announcement information will be forthcoming.

Ms. Sagness announced that the Day of Recovery has been set for February 4, 2019, at the State Capitol, Great Hall.

Chairperson Davis requested the BHPC members recommend possible agenda items for forthcoming meetings. Mr. Young requested that the BHPC dedicate time on substance exposed newborns. Ms. Larsen requested that the BHPC review the block grant budget and spending balance. Ms. McCleary requested that the BHPC review the current 1915(i) plan's restriction for adult coverage only and seek the state's reconsideration by expanding the coverage to include children, as well. Ms. Henderson stated that the Grand Forks Housing Authority had contracted with Corporation for Supportive Housing to conduct data research to support an expanded 1915(i) amendment application. The BHPC should consider a deeper discussion on the 1915(i) process, including a formal presentation from a representative of the Department of Human Services or other interested organizations.

CARLOTTA McCLEARY MADE AND KIM OSADCHUK SECONDED A MOTION THAT THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PLANNING COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SUBMIT A LETTER TO THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE AND THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES REQUESTING THE INCLUSION OF BOTH CHILDREN AND ADULTS IN THE STATE 1915(i) AMENDMENT APPLICATION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

CARLOTTA McCLEARY MADE AND TOM REGAN SECONDED A MOTION THAT THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PLANNING COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SEEK THE NOMINATION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS TO SERVE AS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS, IN KEEPING WITH DESIGNATED BYLAW SLOTS.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Members recommended that the BHPC develop a system of new council member supports, including binders or portfolio packets outlining the BHPC duties and peer supports. The BHPC might provide clarifying instructions to members regarding the Governor's Office application and approval process. Members requested that the BHPC reach out to the Governor's Office to better formalize communications, including the application process and means of announcing appointments and evidencing credentials. Members requested that the Consensus Council prepare several orientation packets for new members, including BHPC bylaws, membership responsibilities, minutes, and general BHPC website information. Executive Committee members might assume the responsibility of offering general orientation and mentoring to new members. Mr. Gallagher provided instructions regarding the filling of BHPC membership, submitting applications on the state advisory committee appointment website (<https://www.governor.nd.gov/boards/AppForm.aspx>).

Chairperson Davis invited members to provide recommendations regarding the BHPC's preparations for and management of the 2019 Legislative Assembly activities. Ms. McCleary stated that the ND Federation of Families will be advancing and monitoring peer support services and seclusion and restraint policies. Ms. McCleary further requested that the BHPC consider advocating for these issues and will forward a summary on the Federation's positions to Mr. Gallagher. Ms. Larsen stated that Protection and Advocacy will be sponsoring IVN sessions regarding the legislative session, offering input opportunities for professionals and the general

public. Additionally, with the aid of a grant, the State Committee on Developmental Disabilities will be working to advance alternatives to guardianship to support individuals with disabilities. Mr. Snyder identified the need to provide a bill tracker for BHPC members. Ms. Larsen stated that she was willing to provide periodic email notifications, through the current Protection and Advocacy networking effort, to the BHPC membership, providing emergent legislative information. Ms. McCleary recommended that the BHPC consider the endorsement of Medicaid expansion, consistent with previous support.

KURT SNYDER MADE AND CARLOTTA McCLEARY SECONDED A MOTION THAT THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PLANNING COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CO-SIGN THE AARP LETTER OF SUPPORT ENDORSING THE STATE'S REENACTMENT OF MEDICAID EXPANSION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Ms. Henderson reported that the Housing Finance Agency has requested that the Housing Incentive Fund be included in the Governor's Budget. Mr. Herman reported that the State Hospital Association has adopted a formal position in opposition to Measure 3, regarding recreational marijuana. Members stated that BHPC members who speak in their capacity as BHPC members are not required to register as lobbyists to testify before the Legislative Assembly, since the Council is a state-authorized advisory council. Members reiterated that the state's behavioral health systems study represents the BHPC policy recommendation to the 2019 Legislative Assembly and all members should readily state their support for the adoption of its recommendations.

Chairperson Davis requested volunteers to serve as members of the BHPC legislative committee. The following members volunteered: Ms. Davis, Mr. Snyder, Ms. McCleary, Mr. Young, Mr. Herman, Ms. Larsen, Mr. Wicks, and Ms. Eberhardt. Any interested BHPC members may submit their interest to either Chairperson Davis or Ms. Stoller. Chairperson Davis and the Consensus Council will prepare letters of invitation and committee scheduling.

#### **Update Reports from BHPC Committees and Members**

Chairperson Davis closed the work session and restored the regular Order, inviting member update reports.

Ms. McCleary reported that the Federation of Families recently received a discretionary grant from the Department of Public Instruction to aid student and parent peer support activities for dual status students in Region 7, enhancing transition outcomes. Ms. McCleary reported that Mental Health America received a three-year Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) grant to support peer support training and data compilation.

Chairperson Davis reported that the Native American Development Center is working on developing best-practice, culturally responsive curriculum for Native youth, including suicide prevention, with the support of the Department of Health and the SAMHSA Indian Health Initiative. The training focuses on individualized training for each tribe, community, and family.

Mr. Regan reported he will be a member of a SAM Action, Inc., press conference, scheduled for October 30, 2018, to address professional and personal objections to Initiated Ballot Measure 3, regarding recreational marijuana.

Mr. Herman reported that Prairie St. John's had recently investigated its seclusion and restraint policies and incidence reports. Mr. Herman reported that incidence rates have dropped from over 300 seclusions 30 years ago, to 160 in 2014, to 6 in 2017, and to 2 in 2018. This constitutes a remarkable reduction in seclusions based on improved policies and staff practices.

Ms. Osadchuk reported that the follow up work to SB 2206, concerning the structure and staffing of county social services, has resulted in several recommendations ranging from the elimination of counties to zones. In this case, all county director positions would be eliminated and the establishment of 19 regional zones would be developed. County staff would stay county employees but the zone director would be an employee of the state. The recommendations of the new county social services model have been moved into the forthcoming Department of Human Services budget. During the discussions leading to these proposals, behavioral health issues and consultants were not readily present. BHPC members requested that the BHPC Executive Committee invite Chris Jones to present on the impact of the Department of Human Services' decisions and budget before the BHPC.

Ms. McCleary reported that October is Mental Illness Awareness Month. The Mental Health Advocacy Network (MHAN) has received a Bush Foundation grant to provide, in part, a statewide view of mental health in North Dakota. MHAN is sponsoring four regional meetings, including Bismarck (October 12), Williston (October 15), Devils Lake (October 24), and Fargo (October 25). These presentations will include the viewing of a documentary, titled A System in Crisis, on mental health services in North Dakota, an historical overview of mental health issues and responses in North Dakota, and work group sessions.

Ms. McCleary reported that North Dakota now requires insurance providers to ensure the coverage of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) services. Ms. McCleary recommended that the BHPC invite Insurance Commissioner Jon Godfread to discuss issues on service parity to advance an improvement of behavioral health insurance coverage statewide.

Ms. McCleary encouraged the BHPC to continue its discussions on securing Medicaid expansion.

Chairperson Davis opened the floor for public comments. No public comments were provided.

Chairperson Davis announced that the next meeting of the BHPC is scheduled for December 19, 2018.

**Adjournment:** Having completed the meeting's agenda and hearing no further comments from the BHPC members, Chairperson Davis declared the meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m. CT.

Respectfully submitted,  
Greg Gallagher  
Consensus Council, Inc.