

BRUNSWICK COUNTY SUBSTANCE USE, ADDICTION, AND MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

August 1st, 2024

5:00PM – 6:30PM

Brunswick County Health Services

25 Courthouse Drive, Building A, Bolivia, NC 28422

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Brunswick County Substance Use, Addiction, and Mental Health Commission monthly meeting was called to order at 5:00PM on August 1st, 2024, in the Brunswick County Health Services Boardroom and on Microsoft Teams Video. All present participated in self-introductions after the call to order for new commission members present.

A. Attendance

Member Name	Position Held	Term Expiration	Present Y/N
Kathleen Gomes	District 1	June 30 th , 2028	Y
Joshua Torbich	District 2; Chair	June 30 th , 2028	Y
William Eberle	District 3; Vice-Chair	June 30 th , 2025	Y-V
Samantha Hickman	District 4	June 30 th , 2025	Y
Jeremy Gunn	District 5	June 30 th , 2026	Y
Jennifer Faircloth *not approved by BOC yet*	Board of Education	June 30 th , 2027	Y
Johnnie McAdams	Chief Superior Court Judge	June 30 th , 2025	N
Acacia Alston	Sheriff's Office	June 30 th , 2026	Y
Jeremy Seamon	Member-At-Large	June 30 th , 2027	Y-V
Laura Trueman	Member-At-Large	June 30 th , 2027	Y
Cecilia Peers	Trillium Regional Director	June 30 th , 2028	Y
Vacant	Local Mental Health Professional	June 30 th , 2028	N/A
Guest Name	Agency/Title		
Michelle Mills	Permanency Planning Coordinator – DSS (Virtual)		
Savannah Tenenoff	Brunswick Beacon		
Carla Colflesh	CEO – Medaci Wellness Institute		
Justin Mohaska	Operations Manager – Medaci Wellness Institute		
David Howard	Brunswick County Health Services, Health Director		

- B. Agenda Approval
Motion: Trueman
Second: Gomes
Changes/Comments: Agenda approved, pointed to cover Overdose Awareness Day/Month events under discussion topics.
- C. Approval of June 6th, June 27th, Meeting Minutes
Motion: Seamon
Second: Trueman
Changes/Comments: Meeting minutes from June 6th, June 27th, approved and signed by commission chair (Josh Torbich).
- D. Public Comment
Notes: None.
- E. Special Presentation
Notes: None.

II. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Needs Identification Survey Report
Notes: Torbich asked if we had any updates on data from Annual Opioid Settlement Funds meeting, this meeting we will discuss data on prevention and hear data that can assist with the "missing voices" from the survey – specifically from Michelle Mills with local DSS data. Trueman explained a bit to new members on the survey, data gathering, etc.

III. REGULARLY OCCURRING ITEMS

- A. enCompass & Responding to Addiction
Upcoming Trainings Scheduled: Responding to Addiction trainings scheduled for Senior Center Sites as part of the Anti-Stigma Initiative, and then a training at Hope Harbor Home.
Briefing on Recent Trainings: follow up with Travis on past enCompass trainings/who have been attending and then numbers to identify target populations
Notes: Discussion of nicotine replacement therapy/tobacco cessation program that CRCI is working with Travis on starting up. Explanation from Eberle of what enCompass is. Continued discussion of potential impact of training and best use of resources/time. Eberle was tasked with sharing the latest flyer for enCompass to Jennifer Lucas to let her know the training is available and trainers are ready/willing to teach.
- B. Quarterly Update to the Board of Commissioners
Notes: Copies of schedule for the Updates from the commission to the BOC given to new members to have on hand.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. New Members

Notes: Introductions were completed following the meeting call to order. All new members present.

B. FY 2024 – 2025 Officer Positions

1. Chair

- a. Eberle nominated Torbich for Chair, Seamon seconded, nomination approved by commission. Torbich will serve as chair for

2. Vice Chair

- a. Torbich nominated Eberle for Vice Chair, Seamon seconded, nomination approved by commission. Eberle will serve as Vice Chair

Notes:

C. Quarterly Focus – Prevention

1. Preventing ACEs

2. Brunswick County DSS Data

- a. From Michelle Mills, Permanency Planning Coordinator, 4 counties/27 year's experience.
 - i. Typically, combination of substance abuse and other factors, like domestic violence or mental health
 - ii. Active Cases over last 6 months, at least 80% of cases have concerns for substance abuse of 1 or more parents (128/160).
 - iii. 2023, 70 cases closed out successfully, only 20 of those were reunifications. Other 50 were either adoption, guardianship/custody with a relative. Not high rate of reunification.
 - iv. In 2024 so far, closed out 42 kids, only 10 of those with their parents.
 - v. Looking into data for pregnant women using substances or substances affected infants that they have gotten reports on.
 - vi. Mental Health Clinician will be connecting cases with community resources for substance abuse for parents, youth – teens especially. Trying to start meeting with 18-21 years old with LINKS staff member and kinship providers support groups to assist with life skills training and education on coping/support during this time.
- b. Struggling to find placement within county for foster children, large deficit in options. Decrease in therapeutic foster parents being patient/tolerant of foster children with behavioral issues. Torbich asked if Seahaven in South Carolina would be a good model – look into that. Trillium coverage is also hard to find for placement facilities, and placement for dual diagnosis is difficult to find as well. Best guess of need for foster homes is at least 50 as soon as possible that would be close to meeting a goal. Huge need for foster parents in Brunswick County due to high growth rate and challenges in successful placement. Commission could work to advocate for need of foster

care homes and encourage an agency/group/etc. to work on filling need of group respite/foster care setting (long term). Opportunities for advocacy and community engagement. Large number of children in care who are recommended for trauma informed therapy but lack of qualified providers in the area who are able/capable of working with children to implement trauma informed therapy techniques. Trillium is working to get the state to approve payment to therapeutic foster care providers to get payment while being trained; also working to propose a temporary evaluation facility for children to go to determine appropriate placement and interventions that are needed. Trillium focuses on promoting and offering preventative and in home services instead of group home settings to improve outcomes. Data/statistics on socioeconomic backgrounds and rates/initiation of substance use by youth and trends of this data. Prevention for children at risk, secondary prevention for adults to prevent the children being in a risky environment. Commission is interested in Seahaven staff members coming to share some of their information, data, outcomes, treatment modalities. There is a need for Court Appointed Special Advocates in Brunswick County that people can volunteer and get trained to do to make some sort of difference. Laura will be attending the august 15th JCPC meeting to speak about what the SUAMH Commission is doing and to understand/learn more about what the JCPC is working on.

3. Resources for Youth & Adolescents

V. DISCUSSION TOPICS

A. Data Gathering

Notes: none.

B. "One More Thing" Conference

Notes: Mr. Howard shares information on this programming during the NCACC and that commission members are encouraged/supported by administration to attend. Travis will be attending to represent staff. Jeremy may be able to attend if he can get someone to cover for him during drug treatment court – will follow up with staff.

C. International Overdose Awareness Day Event

Notes: shared information on health services event being hosted and promise to share out to commission members. Ray Wood with DTC is working to host an event in Shallotte later in the day on that same day.

D. September Mental Health First Aid Training

Invited commission members to staff training and Eberle would like to better publicize observances and events for training in the county.

VI. COMMISSION INPUTS

Notes: Discussion of Responding to Addiction for school staff, lead into discussion of upcoming plans for October – Substance Use Prevention month? Torbich will share more concrete information and details on October activities in schools at the next meeting. New members orientation packet & catching up to speed information sharing that will be needed. Eberle volunteered to host an "orientation session" or materials to work with everyone. Torbich will be absent from next months meeting, Eberle will be in Canada. Trueman will lead/act as Chair for the meeting since neither Chair nor Vice-Chair

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Gomes

Second: Alston

There being no further business, the Brunswick County Substance Use, Addiction and Mental Health Commission monthly meeting was adjourned at 6:57 PM. The next scheduled meeting will be held at 5:00PM on September 5th, 2024, in the Brunswick County Health Services Boardroom in Bolivia, NC.


_____ Chairperson

Vice