

**Thursday January 16, 2025**

**8 am – 10 am**

**BHLT Meeting Minutes**

**Call to Order:** Hope Galloway called the meeting to order at 8:00 AM with a quorum present for voting.

**Approval of Minutes:** Minutes from November 2024 meeting were approved. Lisa Elliot made the motion and second by Michelle Horridge.

**Guest Introduction:** Jeff Docken and Casey Reilly from Solutions of North Texas (SONT) introduced themselves as guest presenters. Carrie Baugus from Denton Affordable Housing corporation introduced herself as a first-time guest attendee. Melissa Stevens introduced herself as clinical liaison with Mayhill Hospital.

**BHLT Officer Update:** Lt Elisa Howell left the Denton Police Department and therefore, had to relinquish her Co-Chair position with BHLT. Back Bone Support has recommended Assistant Chief Douglas Lee to fill that Co-chair position. Lisa Elliot made the motion to approve, Scott Dominique seconded. Approved.

**Strategic Plan 2025 - 2027 updates:** Shelby Redondo reviewed the final edits and updates to the Strategic Plan and thanked the committee for their work on the project. Scott Dominique moved to adopt the Strategic Plan and Michelle Horridge seconded. Approved.

**Denton Public Health Department presentation on Credible Mind:** Alex Reed reported that Credible Mind launched January 19, 2024 and has been operating under a 1-year contract. Denton County Public Health has received a 6-month extension for the program through June 2025 from the County. She highlighted some usage data: greater than 4000 users and 165 accounts have been opened. She demonstrated data they are able to pull from the program which directed them to refresh the landing page to match what users are interested in. There was a discussion about opportunities to increase usership. They have linked an anti-sigma campaign from Fisher County, IN to it.

**Solution of North Texas presentation:** Casey Reilly made a slide show presentation on the mission, goals programs and barriers to substance abuse treatment. She highlighted the community impact and gaps in services. They are committed to continuing to work with the Leadership Team in addressing these.

**Work group reports:**

**CrossCare Collaborative:** Olivia gave the update for the chairs. CCC gave a presentation to HHLT about the feasibility of an Extended Observation Unit (EOU) for the county. In the process of doing a cost benefit analysis. They have appointed 2 subcommittees to work on that, a Data subgroup and a sub group to study updating the Sequential Intercept Map (SIM). Sub-committee members are needed, so if anyone is interested, let them now. The SIM sub group is looking at mapping prevention so the map is a 0 to 5 map now. They will add 0 to minus 5 as prevention.

Funding for these unit in the state comes through Health and Human Services, So, for this legislative session, advocacy for dollars into the HHSC budget for that grant program is the priority. If there is funding in the grant program and we have the data then we can apply for that grant funding.

The other piece of the puzzle is the communication and data sharing. Alex suggested that we could have some of the pieces in place with our use of Find Help since it is HIPPA compliant so connector can be seen across the system. This would also help with referral disposition.

**Substance Use:** Lauren Titsworth reported they are working on collaboration within the group and providers of substance abuse. The community continues to lose providers of substance abuse treatment and they are looking for ways to promote sustainability.

**Suicide Prevention:** Chair Dallas Hamilton reported that they are getting suicide prevention (0 suicide initiative) out into areas of need such as businesses. Also looking at lethal means safety.

Child and Family Systems: Lisa Elliot reported that the group has completed their Strategic Plan. They are going to look into a social media campaign for children and teens. She also addressed the group in the need to be Bold and Loud in advocating for funding for community projects especially at the state legislative level.

**New Business:** Jada Godfrey from the Board of ODB was introduced and recommended for their position on the Leadership Team. Terry Widmer made the motion and Lisa Elliot seconded. Approved.

**Backbone support Updates:**

Housing and Homelessness Leadership Team: The Healthcare Workgroup is in conversation about the need for Medical Respite and an EOU as options to build out the Continuum of Care. The Homeless Coalition is about to complete the 2025 PIT count next week. They are hoping for more volunteer and participant incentives. They would like to thank the tremendous support they get from all the involved Police Departments and DCTA for the increase in bus passes they provided this year.

Workforce Success Leadership Team: Shelby reported that VITA (volunteer Income Tax Assistance) will start next week. They will have 8 sites open 6 days a week Outreach for volunteers. This is a non-predatory connection for people with referrals for services/resources for success. They will also be participating in advocacy for Credible Mind with these citizens.

Denton County Days with the Texas Legislature is April 2-3 this year. Shelby can provide opportunities for potential Zoom calls with legislators.

**Public Comment:**

Cumberland Services announced an increase of 25 more counseling slots at \$5 for those who don't have insurance..

Visit Amazon for the PIT count wish list.

The Family Drug Court needs childcare providers.

The Thailand Royal General visited and benchmarked our Denton County Drug court. They want to have specialty courts in their jails. They like the way we handle addiction and solutions.

**Adjourned:** Next meeting is March 6, 2025, 8am – 10am.