

**BRIDGING LOCAL SYSTEMS:  
STRATEGIES FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES  
COLLABORATION**

**PARTNERS BEHAVIORAL HEALTH MANAGEMENT REGIONAL LEADERSHIP  
SUMMIT**

**Friday, January 6, 2016  
Hickory, North Carolina  
12:00 - 3:00 pm**

**ATTENDEES**

Kathy Craig, *Burke County DSS*; Karen Harrington, *Catawba County DSS*; Alison Clark, *Cleveland County DSS*; Anna Trietley, *Gaston County DSS*; Lisa York, *Iredell County DSS*; Dean Bethea, Sandy Kennedy, *Lincoln County DSS*; Tara Conrad, Mike Forrester, Allison Gosda, Lynne Grey, Rhett Melton, Andrew Schrag, Leah Williams, *Partners BHM*; Gayle Mitchell, Donna Sallstrom, *Partners CFAC*; Yvonne French, Roslyn Thompson, *DHHS*; Anne Foglia, *NCIOM*; Warren Ludwig, *consultant/facilitator*.

**AGENDA**

- 1) Welcome & Announcements
- 2) Follow up on Action Plans from 10/24/16 meeting:
  - a. Action Plan for TCLI Services
  - b. Action Plan for Data
  - c. Action Plan for County Specific Collaborations
- 3) Plan for February 24<sup>th</sup> meeting

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Warren Ludwig (meeting facilitator) welcomed everyone to the third meeting of the regional leadership summit, reviewed the proposed agenda for the day's meeting, and welcomed group announcements.

Karen Harrington informed the group that John Eller was taking a new position as County Manager of Davie County and she was acting as the Interim Director of Catawba County DSS.

It was also noted that Roy Cooper has named Dempsey Benton, former Raleigh city manager and past Department of Health and Human Services secretary as "caretaker" DHHS secretary.

## **ACTION PLAN FOR TRANSITION TO COMMUNITY LIVING INITIATIVE (TCLI) SERVICES**

For the benefit of new participants, Warren Ludwig summarized the conversation from the previous meeting regarding collaboration between the county DSS agencies and Partners in identifying individuals likely to succeed in the TCLI program. The summary of the meeting held October 24, 2016 can be found [here](#).

Allison Gosda, Mental Health Substance Use Clinical Director at Partners, gave a brief update on the progress of that collaboration. Jeffrey Sanders has reached out to several counties who had expressed interest and scheduled a meeting to discuss this new direction for collaboration further for Tuesday, January 10, 2017. The group will provide an update at the final summit meeting on February 24, 2017.

## **ACTION PLAN FOR DATA**

Leah Williams, Research Director at Partners, gave an update from the subgroup call in November 2016 to identify data elements that Partners and DSS agencies should consider tracking longitudinally. The list of indicators of interest developed by Leah Williams and Mike Forrester in collaboration with Catawba and Cleveland counties can be viewed [here](#).

The proposed data collection is intended to be done as part of implementation of trauma-informed care interventions. The goal of implementing trauma-informed care is to (1) improve the functioning of children, (2) decrease placement disruptions, and (3) decrease treatment costs. Cleveland county is currently implementing a trauma-informed approach to care developed by Benchmarks with an evaluation lead by Partners for Excellence. Catawba county is working with Partners to move beyond the work completed as part of Project Broadcast to engage adults in trauma-informed services. Representatives from both counties and Partners acknowledged that these initiatives are ambitious and require engagement and commitment by both partners in addition to funding.

Mike Forrester offered to talk through the potential for trauma-informed care initiatives and opportunities to implement elements of trauma-informed care in more detail with interested counties. Both Lincoln and Gaston counties expressed interest in further discussion. Warren reported briefly on discussions at the Alliance BLS meeting regarding data and reducing placement disruptions.

Rhett Melton, CEO of Partners, raised the question of whether the group should consider policy recommendations to the state at its fourth meeting. He suggested one recommendation might be that state legislators and local county commissioners allocate funds to support the implementation of trauma-informed care practices, either generally or in specific demonstration projects. The possibility of a proposal for demonstration projects measuring outcomes for clients and cost savings was briefly discussed.

## **UPDATES ON COUNTY SPECIFIC COLLABORATIONS**

*Burke County* is currently working with Partners to collocate a therapist at the DSS office to improve access to assessments.

*Catawba County* is continuing to implement trauma-informed care; and working with the Jordan Institute to reexamine guardianship for adults. Warren reported on discussions in the Alliance BLS meeting of strategies to assure that adults were not assigned guardians unnecessarily.

*Cleveland County* is continuing to work with Partnering for Excellence and Benchmarks to implement the trauma-informed care program; and is looking to replace a psychologist in conjunction with Lincoln County who can perform parental fitness examinations.

*Gaston County* is working through some challenging placements and interested in taking a proactive look at future utilization management and placement practices; and has requested trauma-informed care training offered by Partners. (Partners is actively building capacity to provide requested training.)

*Lincoln County* is continuing to focus on improving local access to Level 2 & 3 placements; and identifying a second substance use services provider to offer greater choice of outpatient services.

*Iredell County* is hosting an Opioid summit in February to discuss ethical prescribing practices as part of their focus on drug free Iredell.

## **Next Meeting**

The final meeting of the Regional Leadership Summit is scheduled for February 24<sup>th</sup> from 12-3pm at 1985 Tate Blvd., Suite 529, Hickory, NC 28602.

## **Tentative Agenda**

- Update on Transition to Community Living Initiative Collaboration
- Update on County Trauma-Informed Care Initiatives and Data Collection
- County Updates on Specific Projects
- Summary of Initiatives from Other Ongoing Regional Leadership Summits
- Consideration of Policy Recommendations
- Summit Wrap Up: Accomplishments & Commitments Moving Forward