

January 18 Meeting – Talking Points

Attendees:

- **Advocates:** Colleen McDonnell, Ann Pruszynski
- **Aspire:** Abby Foley, Jadine Ruiz, Brynn Copper, Katy Sleczkowski
- **BHN:** Courtney Rotzler
- **BMC:** Jaime Shorten
- **CHA:** Vanessa Nason, Claudia Ortiz, Shannon Sorenson
- **Eliot:** Ann Fitzgerald, Tina Hoofnagle
- **Riverside:** Manny Opong, Marcel Descheneaux, Brianna Rondeau, Cheryl Marino, Bill Chaplin
- **BSAS:** Stacey Lynch, Amber Carroll, Vanna Souksavath
- **MGB:** Elizabeth Kayajian
- **MAMH:** Joan, Jenifer, Lina

Welcome and Housekeeping

- Jenifer presented on this model during a workshop at the National Center on School Mental Health's annual conference in December in New Orleans. Afterward, we received an inquiry from a health care insurance organization in Pennsylvania that is interested in learning more about the PBHUC program and about potential replication in Pittsburgh. We may call on some of you to share your experiences once we have met with them to better understand their goals.

Discussion

- **How many students are using substances or have a substance use conditions? How many families are affected by substance use or substance use conditions and in what way?**
 - o Some grantees that work with elementary schools mentioned that they are not seeing many referrals to the PBHUC program regarding substance use but, in their other CBHC services, they are seeing students with experimentation and dependence.
 - o One grantee mentioned seeing students in urgent care and CBHC that have substance use issues, but many of these students are outside of schools so not receiving services through the grant. Another echoed seeing a lot of teens and adolescents with a lot of alcohol use bordering on dependence outside of this program.
 - o Another grantee mentioned running vaping cessation groups.
 - o One grantee mentioned a couple of parents whose substance use conditions get in the way of being involved in their child's services. Some children may be getting secondhand marijuana smoke from their parents.

Presentation from BSAS:

Presentation from: Stacey Lynch is the Director of the Office of Youth & Young Adult Services (OYYAS) at the Bureau of Substance Addiction Services (BSAS) at the Department of Public Health; Vanna Souksavath, the MA Statewide A-CRA Trainer at OYYAS; and Amber Carroll, the Youth Intervention Coordinator at OYYAS.

Please see presentation linked at the [PBHUC Resource Page](#).

- MA is the only state with a dedicated youth office for substance use.

- Focus of discussion will be on intervention services since those are most likely to be seen by our grantees.
- One program is their school-based intensive interventions.
 - o 26 schools across state ages 8 – 17. Goal is to reduce risk factors and increase protective factors to prevent future substance use.
- Another is their high school co-occurring response teams:
 - o Partnerships between community-based BH providers and local HS. Seated at the schools to provide these services during the day.
 - o Three levels of care: Intervention (Project Amp), Diversion (iDECIDE), and Treatment (A-CRA).
 - iDECIDE: Tier II intervention in 349 schools used as an alternative to suspensions, expulsions, and other exclusionary practices. Brief 1 – 4 hour educating curriculum.
 - Have trained many school staff in this. Early data show that after iDECIDE increased perception of harm and decrease in attitude that it is just “something that people do.” Are working on iCARE component for someone (caregivers, parents, etc) for those who have child involved in iDECIDE.
 - Over 600 facilitators have been trained. Plan to train 600 more this year.
- Another program is Adolescent Community Reinforcement Approach (A-CRA):
 - o Part of outpatient level of services – is a BH intervention for ages 12 – 24 to increase reinforcers that will support recovery from substance abuse.
 - o 12 – 14 week programs that are in-person and virtual. Have A-CRA training opportunities for certification for this model. Have an A-CRA decision tree.
- Have ongoing relationship with AdCare Educational Institute which offers virtual and in-person trainings
- Can also access Mass Clearing House for free resources.
- MA Substance Use Helpline which is specific to SU resources and needs. This is to call in and see what resources are available.
- There were 40 beds for youth detox, 65 beds for boys
 - o Now we’re investing to find alternatives for kids to find a detox bed. There are now only 12 licensed beds, and sometimes lower because of staffing barriers. We want providers to ask questions and feel that their staff are trained and qualified.
- Looking to community partners to build capacity to make sure that workforce can deliver adequate SU care.
- BSAS is working on looking at peer specialists to do more of this work to help diversify the workforce that can deliver these services.

Logistics

Future Learning Community Meetings:

- February 15 at 1pm
- March 21 at 1pm
- Site visits in April and May

Data Analysis (Lina)

- Thank you for submitting those data. We will send out data visualizations from the January – June 2023 data collection period by the end of January.

Data Collection (Lina)

- Due Friday, March 15
- Will hold office hours in February to answer any questions.