

**Kerrville Recovery Community Coalition Meeting Minutes:  
December 28, 2020**

Call to Order: 4:07 p.m.

**Members Present:**

Dale Trees  
Claudia Richner  
Rick Stolpman  
Randie Benno  
Leigh Ann Fitzpatrick  
Sabine Kuenzel  
Dr. Kendall Young  
Brian Brannan

**Members Absent:**

Michael Brooks  
Brittany Andry  
Laura Godwin-Driggers  
Leslie Marek  
Kara Grant  
Christa Lovett

**Visitors/Contributing:**

Thomas Hurt- Observing  
  
Landon Sturdivant- Guest Speaker

**City Executive:**

Chief Eric Maloney

**Virtual Meeting Access Connection:**

Go-To Meeting connection provided to allow access for members and public:

**Agenda Item 1: APPROVE MINUTES OF NOVEMBER , 2020**

**MEETING** Change Dr. Kendall Young and Kendall Young as absent. Eliminate one of the duplicated names. Also, Leigh Ann Fitzpatrick was marked as present but was actually absent. Correct Agenda Item 4 to show that Claudia Richner reported the Mental Health Coalition meetings have been on hold due to COVID. Randie Benno gave a motion to accept as amended. Claudia Richner gave a second.

**Agenda Item 2: RECOGNIZE MEMBERS, PARTNERS, GUEST A**

Thomas Hurt visited our meeting. He is the local criminal defense attorney in Kerrville, Texas. He has applied for an open position for the Board. We welcomed him to our meeting.

**Agenda Item 3: BRIAN BRANNAN and RANDIE BENNO-**

**MENTAL HEALTH:** This item remained on the agenda to further discuss outcome of data gathering, as well as possible further recommendations. We will table this item for next agenda.

**Agenda Item 4: RANDIE BENNO -- GUEST SPEAKER,**

Landon Sturdivant, HCMHDD CEO- Brief introduction of his move to Kerrville over a year ago. They are committed to improving their services. They submitted and were approved for a Community Mental Health Center. This designation is around Behavioral Health. This is what the Federal Government has been building on for several years. The Certified Community Health Center is taking services to the next level. There are a number of elements to have this type of Center. It mirrors the State Plan to integrate the mental health and substance abuse services. It is also to require all services provided to be evidence-based. Clients should see similar services regardless of township. We are all moving toward the same philosophy with 39 behavioral health centers across the State of Texas. We are moving toward a standard measures of quality.

They can benchmark them against other centers across the State of Texas and analyze outcome measures across the United States. The key factor for this is the method of funding. It will be changing from a Grant-Aid to more of a Cost-Base or Outcome-Based funding model. Moving toward an alternative payment model and population outcome health. It is looking at incorporating substance use disorder services. This is still being worked out at this point. They will be going into a transition phase. They submitted their application in November 2020 and the transition is extensive. They are implementing an electronic health record to qualify for the data requirements and standards. They want to see a consistency of program to make certain that what you say is happening in your center is actually happening in your center. This is a lengthy process and could take up to 9 - 12 months. Their goal is to become certified no later than September 2021. This is critical because they are currently working under the Medicaid Waiver and that program ends on October 1, 2021. The Feds see this as a transformation program. The mechanism to transfer out of the transformation waiver is to move toward a Certified Community Behavioral Health Center. Funds from the State of Texas will ultimately be running through this new model. The Outpatient services and co-occurring services is looking at coordinated services. They will look at how they are working with community partners. We need to better send and receive referrals between and amongst service providers. It is a care coordinated element and we want to enhance that collaboration. It will help people recover from their disorder.

This certification is required to access the federal money for services. Certification is only good for three years. Randie Benno commented that when someone comes to their clinic they will have a team of individuals working with them so they are getting comprehensive services. There are also Trauma Informed Services so clients feel comfortable coming in to get services. Having partnerships where we have warm hand-offs is mission critical. We need to be aware of how

we can break down the barriers to services. We will try to make this a customer service approach. We are walking through the work flow of different scenarios to reduce replication of questioning, etc. We want to increase our internal customer service and greasing the path to get expedited services. Currently, the challenge is we are trying to operate in an under-funded environment so we are looking at what are some things we could take out and streamline. Bringing on an electronic health record could be one way to streamline this process to share information back and forth with other providers. He would like to return in the future to provide updates on progress.

**Agenda Item 5: LEIGHANN FITZPATRICK –  
COMMUNICATION – KERRVILLE STATE HOSPITAL -**

Communication- Trauma Informed Care- Reported that the Austin State Hospital has Communities in Recovery. They have Peer Support Framing, 12 Step Meetings, Computer Lab, and even have a Clothing Bank where individuals can borrow items for interviews. It supports individuals coming out of discharged from Austin State Hospital. It is not utilized right now due to COVID. Currently, there is a department within HSSC, the State Hospital and Living Centers receive information on Trauma Informed Care from reading, webinars, and trainings at no cost. Leigh Ann said that she can forward the link for the training to us as a Board and attend some of these webinars. The hospitals using this have said this has made a huge difference on how they work with their patients. This months topic that might be of interest was about coping with COVID-19 and the Holidays. Since she has access, she'd love to share this with us. It was well accepted and requested that she share this resource with us. Leigh Ann reported that she has received the vaccine (Moderna) and says so far so good. She says that even though we have a vaccine, she said we will see that the pandemic will not just go away. It will be a good six months to a year of a new normal. This has been difficult on everyone. Leigh Ann will send the link directly to Chief Maloney to send to all members of the Coalition.

**Agenda Item 6: CHRISTA LOVETT – COMMUNICATION – RECOVERY SERVICES IMPROVEMENTS, NEW BRAUNFELS**  
She is absent so it will be moved to a future agenda.

**Agenda Item 7: KENDALL YOUNG – Bill Morgan - In-Home Drug Test Kits-** Kendall Young reported that she will be reaching out to Mr. Morgan this week. She also reported that Tivy High School will pilot the Rhithm App to assess the emotional, mental, and wellness of students and staff. It also provides interventions to allow students to self-regulate.

Randie Benno reported that MHDD provides access to an App called MyStrength to allow clients to access interventions and help clients while they are not immediately obtaining services in the clinic. They provide the code to clients to use when they are not immediately receiving services. They have used the app for a number of years.

**Agenda Item 8: SABINE KUENZEL – COMMUNICATION – KERR COUNTY NEEDS ASSESSMENT- SACADA Report**

This item was informational to provide the Coalition what was released in the report. There is no follow-up at this point but is relevant based on what we have discussed at this meeting. The more we can get to actual interaction with individuals needing services, the better and not relying on the region to provide the services. It should be community led and provided instead of having regional individuals provide that information.

**Agenda Item 9: DALE TREES – RESIGNATION –** We will be asking for continued funding by the legislative team in July and Dale will continue to act in that capacity apart from the Coalition.

Dale Trees will be resigning from President of the Board and Board due to his continuance of higher education and his extensive employment duties. He shared his belief in this Coalition. He will stay in the position

until a replacement is made. With the openings we currently have on the Board, there are five positions that will be open. Board members can bring nominations. Kara Grant has not re-applied and Laura Driggers will resign as well. Dale will contribute as a guest in the future and he is making arrangements to meet with Landon to have these Coalitions working more closely together. He will be happy to bring any updates to the Coalition. There are 8 vacancies on this Coalition as reported by Chief Maloney and 5 applications have been received. There are 3 openings. We have Male Boarding Home, Female Boarding Home, and Sid Peterson Health. Some are very specific, like the Boarding Homes. We can change Leslie or Brittney to meet Qualification #2 and that would be an easy change. Sabine gave a huge THANK YOU to Dale Trees for his service, time, and devotion to the Coalition and it was concurred by all of the other members. Chief Maloney offered his appreciation for Dale's service all of these years.

**Agenda Item 10: BOARD MEMBER END OF TERM** – The information regarding openings and re-appointments is available on the KRCC website.

**Agenda Item 11: Dale Trees**— Repeat of Items 3 and Item 6 for future agenda items.

Claudia Richner asked if Dale Trees would send out the notes from the Interagency Meeting.

Chief mentioned that Brian Brannan will need to submit his application and that he received the link from Leigh Ann so he will send it out to the entire KRCC. Do not use the old link for this meeting. A new link will be provided with additional securities.

**Agenda Item 12. CONFIRM NEXT MEETING DATE AND TIME:**  
January 25, 2021 4:00 P.M., Go-To Virtual format

Meeting adjourned at 5:38 pm

Claudia Richner moved to conclude the meeting and Randie Benno seconded the motion to end the meeting.

Approve: Kardell YEDR Date: 6/28/2021  
Attest: Asteria Deenual 6/28/2021