



Behavioral Health Task Group

Meeting Minutes

December 18, 2020

9:30 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.

Virtual Meeting – Zoom Call

Mission: *The Behavioral Health Task Group is an inclusive & collaborative group focused on providing education, service expansion and advocacy to ensure that all Sussex County residents have access to quality mental/behavioral health services*

Dashboard:

- 1. Access to Mental Health Services for Children and Youth and increased access to treatment and support for Adults.*
- 2. Decrease in Overdose deaths and increased policies that address the addiction epidemic.*
- 3. 3rd Grade Reading Levels and Increased Graduation Rates.*

IMPACT: *Increased access and support to mental health and addictions services for children, youth and families in Sussex County*

25 attendees 3 new attendees

Action Items

- Peggy/Kathryn to connect Teri Lawler and Margalita from Higher Ground (done)
- Continue conversation around cultural sensitivity with Margalita (in-process)
- Kathryn to schedule Daniel Maas to present around Hero Help program to BHTG (done)

December meeting minutes were approved unanimously with a motion by Kaytra MacDonald and a second by Nicole Caselli.

Guest Speakers

Margalita Poletunow, LPCMH

Higher Ground Counseling

<https://counselingwithmargalita.com>

highergroundlpc@gmail.com

- Haitian born, married with 2 children
- M.S in Pastoral Clinical Mental Health Counselor
- Licensed in the state of DE, PA
- Over 20 years experienced in variety of social services settings including schools, hospitals and community-based agencies
- Certified Grief Counselor Specialist
- Recent focus on grief, loss, trauma by people of color especially immigrants, women's issues and life transitions

Brandn Green, PhD

JG Research & Evaluation

brandn@jgresearch.org

Topic: CAST Update

- CAST has been formally used to assess the substance abuse care capacity of: the state of Nevada; Sussex County, DE; Cochise County, AZ; Cheshire County, NH; Chester County, PA; and Northumberland County, PA.
- From 2018 to the present, we have been collaborating with the U.S. Army Public Health Center's Health Promotion and Wellness Applied Behavioral Health Working Group to create a CAST model



that reflects the unique environment and needs of the Army and explore its utility at the installation level

- The aim of the Army CAST is to identify and monitor potential unmet prevention program needs within the community
- The follow up in Sussex is the first opportunity to use CAST to track impact and model how actions shaped population-level outcomes over time

New Business

- Mini-grant updates (Crystal)
- DSU COVID-19 Study (Peggy/Kathryn)
- Beebe – Is Your Story Making You Sick (Kim Blanch)

Partner Updates/Group Discussion: Unite DE topic of discussion, Christiana Care purchased Union Hospital

Upcoming Meetings:

Next BHTG Meeting: Friday, February 19, 2020 – Location Zoom – Virtual Meeting

Attendees Matrix

1.	Kathryn Burritt	SCHC	
2.	Crystal Timmons-Bryant	SCHC	
3.	Peggy Geisler	SCHC	
4.	Emma Braun	SCHC	
5.	Kym Alvarado		
6.	Jordan Weisman	AmeriHealth Caritas of Delaware	
7.	Quiana Dorn	Dover Behavioral Health System	Community Liaison
8.	Nicole Luther	CFF	
9.	Kaytra MacDonald	Champions for Children's Mental Health	
10.	Vincenza Fabber		
11.	Tom Harris		
12.	Theresa Vial		
13.	Nicole Caselli	Beebe Long Neck Family Practice (formerly Advanced Care Clinic)	FNP
14.	Melody Bush		
15.	Carey Lynch	DYRS	Supervisor in the Georgetown Unit
16.	Sarah Cha Cha	UW/\$tand by me	
17.	Janet Urdahl	Delaware State University	School of Social Work
18.	Judy Schlott	SUN DE	Community liaison
19.	Daniel Maas	HERO HELP NCCPD	
20.	Brandn Green		
21.	Jane Galli	JFS Delaware	
22.	Amanda Richter	Bayhealth	
23.	Rachel Kelly		
24.	Alexandra Taylor		
25.	Carey Lynch		