



Quarterly Meeting
Bismarck Burleigh Public Health
Microsoft Teams
Thursday, February 13th, 2025
10:00 AM – 11:30 AM

Attendees: Madison Peterson (BBPH), Susan Kahler (BBPH), Renae Moch (BBPH), Dr. Lacey Armstrong (Sanford), Wendy Hafner-Bakken (BHS), Jena Gullo (MSA United Way), Jason Stugelmeyer, Jess Follman (ND National Guard Drug Demand Reduction and Outreach), Jodie Fetsch (Western Plains Public Health), Melanie Hanson (Program Director, Centre Inc. Mandan), Gary Schaffer (Burleigh County Sheriff's Department), Isabella Valenzuela (Ideal Options), Kelli Sears (Sanford Health EMS Operations Supervisor), Bea Kaiser (Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library), Kurt Synder (Heartview Foundation), Liz Kapella (BBPH Nurse-Family Partnership), Charlotte Williams (CDC Foundation), Doreen Eichele (Dacotah Foundation), Katie Fitzsimmons (North Dakota University System), Pastor Bob (Good Shepard Lutheran Church), Christine Kujawa (Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library), Kandy Swenning (CHI St. Alexius Common Spirit CHW), Lindsae Timm (St. Alexius Behavioral Health), Carrie Sorenson (Quality Health Associates of ND), Matthew McCleary (Mental Health of America of ND & ND Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health), Cathy Palczewski (Heartview, Opioid Grant Project Manager), Mikaela Kautzman, Mike J. Ness, Kodi A. Pinks.

Total Attendance: 29

Welcome/Introductions:

Renae Moch, SAP Coordinator, Bismarck-Burleigh Public Health (BBPH)
Renae Moch welcomed participants and coordinated introductions.

NDHHS Behavioral Health Legislative Update

Pam Sagness, Executive Director Behavioral Health

Sue shared Pam Sagness legislative updates

Policy & Administration: [PowerPoint Presentation](#)

BHD Portfolio

<https://www.hhs.nd.gov/sites/www/files/documents/BH/BH-Portfolio-2025.pdf>

Community Health Worker - Kandy Swenning

Kandy Swenning, St. Alexius Community Health Worker, discussed the many ways she assists within the community through her job. Some of the ways including, community referrals, SDOH screenings, and case working both within community and public schools. Kandy also gave details about a drive that she is working on and encouraged those who were interested to participate.

[Supply Drive for Women - CHI](#)

Subcommittee Updates:

Prevention & Education Subcommittee

DFC Grant- Madison Peterson, SAP Intern

Madison Peterson, SAP Intern, shared some DFC grant activities. Madison presented at county schools about peer pressure and refusal skills and has attended some college events and provided resources. Madison shared the final results of the Zero Proof campaign that will be used for

media campaigns. Madison also shared some student committee updates. Madisons shared BMBHC Student Subcommittee worked on creating PSA radio ads and is working on practicing presentations to present at elementary schools on the harms of alcohol. The student subcommittee also just completed their Superbowl Sticker Shock event where they partnered with 13 pizza places and gave out over 5000 stickers.

Student Committee Updates- Wendy Hafner-Bakken

Wendy Hafner-Bakken shared an update on our attendance to CADCA's 35th Annual Leadership Forum. Wendy discussed our meeting with Representative Julie Fedorchak and our meeting with Senator Cramer's staffers where we shared DFC grant activities and the importance of the grant.

SOR Grant- Sue Kahler, SAP Coordinator (BBPH)

Susan Kahler, SAP Coordinator, shared first responder data showing a decline in doses, saves, and fatalities compared to the earlier years. Susan shared in 2024, 1326 individuals were trained on Narcan. Susan also shared some upcoming Narcan Trainings and Take Back Events. The Narcan trainings take place at U of Mary's SW Class on Feb. 24th, at BSC Social Problems class on March 3rd, and a Community Narcan Training on and March 18th. The Take Back events are at BSC Student Union on April 15th and at Burleigh County Senior Center on May 28th.

Renae Moch- Triage Center Project

Renae Moch, shared some updates on the Triage Center Project. Renae shared she is preparing a request for proposals for technical assistance which will outline the government structure and sustainability plan. Renae shared the groundwork has been done and needs assessments are complete.

Treatment & Recovery Subcommittee

Cathy Palczewski, Heartview – Opioid Grant Project Manager

Cathy Palczewski, Heartview, shared updates on the Overdose grant. Cathy is working to submit some addendums to the grant and waiting for approval before being able to submit the budget. They are partnering with Ministry on the Margins to work on street outreach and also providing resources to those at Ministry on the Margins. They are also partnering with Sanford Internal Med, Sanford south clinics, and UND center for family medicine. They will contact Heartview to Heartview can meet patients and help bridge them into treatment. So far, Heartview has received 5 calls and bridged 5 individuals into treatment in the last two weeks. Cathy provided details on their upcoming HEART program. HEART program is every other Tuesday evening from 6pm to 8pm for family members and loved ones experiencing substance abuse.

Sanford Behavioral Health – Dr. Lacey Armstrong

Dr. Lacey Armstrong, Chief of Behavioral Health, shared some information regarding Sanford's inpatient unit. There is currently 10 rooms, double occupancy, which causes conflicts with accepting patients. The inpatient unit only accepts adults and is used for acute behavioral issues. Dr. Lacey Armstrong also shared working with children who need psychiatric hospitalization testing and discusses whether the child will need admission or outpatient management. Sanford has three clinic providers that are involved in the schools that can provide care to youth to keep them in school.

Isabella Valenzuela – Ideal Options

Isabella Valenzuela, Community Outreach Coordinator for Ideal Options. Isabella is located in Fargo, but Ideal Options has clinics in Bismarck, Williston, Minot, and Grand Forks. Isabella provided information on Ideal Options. Ideal Options is a low barrier outpatient provider, with a 24/7 nurse care team for those who are experiencing substance abuse. They work to try to get individuals into treatment within one to three days and also work closely with organizations and providers to help fast track individuals into recovery as quick as 24 hours. Will work with any individual that is insured and uninsured. Ideal Options helps with resources and referrals for food, transportation, counseling and more. Ideal Options has also recently started to provide treatment for Hepatitis C. Ideal Options tests up to 46 different substances, including xylazine. Ideal Options has helped 88,000 individuals with recovery.

[Ideal Options.docx](#)

New Members/Organizations

Additional Comments:

Lindsae Timm

Lindsae provided some information on House Bill 1468. The house bill will expand CHI At. Alexius inpatient facility by 30 more beds. An assessment was done to find we are short on inpatient beds on the Western side of North Dakota. The Partial Hospitalization facility at CHI is looking to open up in March or April and the facility will provide 16 beds to children and adolescents and 16 beds to adults. Current delays are due to short staff.

Katie Fitzsimmons – North Dakota

Katie Fitzsimmons, North Dakota University System. Katie gave updates and details regarding current legislative bills. House Bill 1570, a tobacco taxation bill that would raise the current tobacco tax to \$1.09. House Bill 1365 and 1588, would allow for open and concealed carry of firearms in public owned and operated buildings. If the building or institution does not want firearms within their buildings they would need to set up metal detectors and explicitly prohibit firearms within their buildings. House Bill 1352, would allow open and concealed carry within churches. House Bill 1566, relating to the regulation of kratom.

Jena Gullo – United Way

Jena Gullo, United Way, shared her support for Senate Bill 2030. Senate Bill 2030 will increase homeless shelter operation funding. United Way currently does not have funding to stay open during the day time, but does not want to close during the cold weather. United Way may start to reduce their hours.

Assignments/Next Meeting

May 6th, Tuesday at 10am-11:30am

Meeting Adjourned at 11:00

Meeting minutes taken by: Madison Peterson, SAP Intern

The Mission Statement:

"To lead and guide a continuum of care model to reduce substance abuse & behavioral health issues in our communities."

The Vision Statement:

“A safe, healthy, vibrant community, free of substance abuse, addiction and behavioral health issues.”