

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**San Miguel Behavioral Health Solutions**  
January 26 | 9:00 am – 11:00am  
ZOOM

**Panel Members Present:** John Pandolfo, Paul Reich, Andres Jacinto, Chuck Porth, Carol Friedrich, Pam Stewart, Rob Whiting, Sharon Grundy, Todd Bittner

**Panel Members Absent:** none

**Other attendees:** Mary Burt; TCHNetwork, Lynn Borup; TCHNetwork, Corinne Cavender; TCHNetwork, Gisela Escobedo; Interpreter, Andrea Syko; Interpreter, Amy Rowan & Leslie Sparks; TCHNetwork, Alexander Johnson & Britany Picard: Telluride School District.

**Meeting called to order at 9:05am**

**1. Welcome**

- a. BHS members agreed that the agenda will be re-arranged to accommodate further Behavioral Health Fund Discussion
2. Approve minutes Paul motioned, Carol seconded

**3. Budget**

- a. Next meeting will reflect accurately through 2023
- b. Finishing at a better remaining balance in the budget than anticipated

**4. Review of Annual Grantee Reports**

- **Telluride School District – presenters Alexander Jones & Brittany Picard, Board Certified Therapist**

Highlights included:

- a. Retained Laura Knight, who has a background of crisis and trauma services, to connect parents to resources and provides individual and group therapy. In 2023, will need to fill school counselor position which became vacant as of December.
- b. Retained Shawna Rice, as the School Psychologists, unable to fill Psychologist intern position.
- c. Established BH Department
- d. Held Pizza with Professionals a community engagement for students to learn about careers from the community.
- e. Trained in Social Emotional Principals, Trauma informed training, and on to provide quality care to LGBTQ students.
- f. Implemented Sources of Strength, a peer led Suicide prevention program in elementary school (grades 3-6) and will be starting in the Intermediate school.
- g. Bilingual presenters will be coming in Spring 2023 for conversations on Substances and alcohol.

- h. Hired a BH technician for the middle school but they left the end of October so are going to try again next year

Questions from the Panel included whether TSD is seeking different grant funding for Laura Knight, John explained that the needs outweigh funding. Panel discussed disciplinary process of using the Vape detector and punishment, John explained they are supporting students with prevention and catching it while it is going on.

Panel member shared his concern about Latinx children having a stigma towards higher education, suggested events for more participation by Latino parents on how to address the issues of drinking and drugs in the community.

#### **Uncompahgre Medical Center presenter Chuck Porth**

Highlights included:

- a. Hired a Behavioral Health Specialist from Colorado, Thomas Terlinger, LCSW who started in December and is currently going through the credentialing process and will be implementing the Integrative medicine process.
- b. Requested to carryover the unused fund balance of \$51k due to hiring the position at the end of the grant period. Panel Member Paul suggested seeing an updated budget.

Questions from the Panel included inquiring what the challenge is to hiring a Latino Interpreter. Chuck shared they are seeking an Interpreter and are using a Tele Interpreter line in the meantime.

#### **Tri-County Health Network Stigma Reduction presenter, Corinne Cavender**

Highlights included:

- a. Ability to increase the number of MHFA instructors to meet the needs of the community.
- b. Offering classes for free.
- c. Implementing Teen MHFA, the first of its kind, in Telluride.
- d. Starting to offer MHFA classes in Spanish.

### **5. Review of Annual Report from Contractors**

#### **Tri-County Health Network BH Fund Administration presenter Amy Rowan**

Highlights included.

- a. The BH Fund has 150 unique therapists serving 525 community members who received over 2000 sessions. 38% of individuals had depression, 53% had anxiety.
- b. Fund is meeting the needs of the community, however more Behavioral Health Services for youth are needed thus the school-based work is important. Also, there is a need for more substance use resources.
- c. Successes include connecting people to services who have no insurance and therapists have been reaching out to get more support for their clients including social service programs, food, transportation, etc., to help break down barriers to health care.
- d. Challenges with invoice submissions (one recent submission was from June 2022), so the system is being revamped to ensure therapists submit invoices timelier.

Questions from the Panel included wanting to know about triggers for anxiety and depression in order to support the community with stressors. Amy shared that that information is not currently collected but will see if it can be tracked.

Panel also wants feedback on how the changes to the 2023 fund impacts both the clients and providers. Amy shared they would be willing to share quarterly reports to review this information.

Panel asked about the status of the Behavioral Health Care Coordinator. Amy shared that she is transitioning to a new role within TCHNetwork and the Care Coordination Manager will fill in to ensure no drop in service while recruiting her replacement

#### **6. Follow-up regarding the 2023 Behavioral Health Fund:**

Lynn led conversation regarding the intent of the 2023 scholarship, is to allow: everyone who lives or works in SM to get up to 6 sessions that the Fund will pay Providers \$110 scholarship towards the cost of each session. An additional 6 sessions may be provided based on the financial status of the client with payments to the Provider with \$85 or \$100 scholarship per session. The Panel has agreed to honor any client with a the 2022 scholarships- unlimited sessions with providers paid 100% of billed, until the anniversary date. Upon renewal, it will be determined how many sessions the SMBHF paid for in 2023 and calculate how many sessions remain based on the 2023 scholarship criteria. Lynn demonstrated the lookup feature on the TCHNetwork website: [tchnetwork.org/smbhf-lookup/](http://tchnetwork.org/smbhf-lookup/) to show how the therapists and clients can know how many visits they have had. The 2023 scholarship must be completed by the end of the year, no sessions will be carried forward into 2024.

The Board reviewed the letters that will be sent on behalf of the Panel to all current clients & therapists explaining the above.

It was recommended that the Panel needs to determine the scholarship criteria for the SMBH Fund by September of each year to allow time to communicate any changes and to allow folks to apply for the 2024 scholarship

Dr. Grundy shared feedback from two providers

- MH Providers have to do a good faith annual estimate for clients so the sooner the scholarship funding is determined the better.

- For very complex clients, 6 sessions are limited, it may take up to 3 sessions to establish a treatment plan.

- No MH Providers on the Panel and the scholarship discussion was decided without them in the room, perhaps the Panel should consult with them when making these decisions.

Additional comments/questions from the Panel included concerns about losing clinicians, especially if they are specialized and though \$110 is below most private practice rates it should work but do need copy clarification. It was confirmed that there are no copays in the 2023 scholarship just fixed

reimbursement rates from the Panel. It was shared that 6 sessions is the industry standard and the average sessions in 2022 was 12 however some people had up to 90 sessions.

**Motion:** To adopt the intent of the 2013 scholarship of providing 6 or 12 sessions in 2023 to all eligible community members and that any sessions used in 2023 count towards the 6 or 12 limit. (Dr Grundy motioned, Carol seconded)

Dr. Grundy also requested that the Panel review the fund activity each quarter to ensure there is not a large drop off in clients or providers.

**All Panel members approved the motion by giving a thumbs up to approve, no one gave a thumb down.**

Lynn led the Guardrail discussion on Providers reimbursement and reimbursement timeframe for 2023. If a Provider is going to take the scholarship funds, they agree to bill within 30 days of service; if they are not an approved Provider they must submit a copy of their clinical license and W9 prior to being reimbursement; agree to not billing for missed appointments, and utilize insurance (if this is an option) prior to accessing scholarship fund.

Questions from the Panel included whether providers needed to sign an agreement and it was clarified that the letter from the Panel will delineate the rules of engagement. And be used to inform all therapists of these new requirements. Also the Panel agreed that there was confusion over the statement of utilizing insurance so it will be taken out.

**Motion:** To adopt these new guardrails for therapist participation with the SMBH Fund (John motioned; Rob seconded) .

Questions from Amy concerning the need for the Panel to decide what services are covered under the SMBH Fund and what licensure does a provider need to have to eligible to receive payment from the fund. For example, Ketamine is administered by a Physician.

Carol reminded the Panel that the original intent of the SMBH Fund was to leave what treatment interventions were needed for a client up to the clinicians and that the Fund started paying for alternative treatments for care because they were not covered by insurance but needed by the client.

The Panel agreed that TCHNetwork needed to share a list of providers and services for the Panel to review at the February meeting.

**Meeting adjourned at 11:08 am**

Next Meeting: February 23, 9-11am