

**MEETING AGENDA**  
**San Miguel Behavioral Health Solutions**  
November 19, 2020 | 9:00 am – 11:00 am  
ZOOM ONLY

**Panel Members Present:** Carol Friedrich, Perri Gipner, Amanda Jones, Sarah Landeryou, Rob Whiting

Other Attendees: Paul Reich, TCHNetwork; Corinne Cavender, TCHNetwork; Greg Fischer; TCHNetwork

Meeting called to order at 9:08am

**1. Approve October 22, 2020 Meeting Minutes**

- a. *1<sup>st</sup> Rob Whiting*
- b. *2<sup>nd</sup> Perri Gipner*
- c. *All in Favor*

**2. Updates**

- a. Good Neighbor Fund
  - i The Panel has funded 29 individuals using \$36,500 of the \$60,000 that was originally allocated for the GNF
  - ii The Panel revisited qualification guidelines and discussed concerns about middle class funding
    - 1 A local therapist expressed concern that some community members with insurance could not afford treatment due to high deductibles/copays; TCHNetwork seeking guidance on this issue
    - 2 Panel agreed that all residents in San Miguel County should be able to access behavioral health funds regardless of ability or insurance to pay
    - 3 TCHNetwork will look at options to change criteria without unduly burdening the staff who are overseeing these dollars
- b. Medicaid Credentialing Grant
  - i Carol Friedrich updated the Panel on the status of this grant
    - 1 One clinician has reached out to become a Medicaid provider in San Miguel County
    - 2 Carol is in the process of outreaching to more therapists and will use the BH Google Group to contact them
    - 3 Discussed any leverage the panel may have over providers to encourage them to take Medicaid.
    - 4 Discussed the possibility for clinical supervision reimbursement through Medicaid

**3. Priority Funding Initiatives**

- a. Spanish Language Therapist
  - i TCHNetwork presented an overview of the issues related to this priority

- ii The Panel discussed the barriers in creating this position and reviewed short term alternatives
- iii The Panel debated what should be funded, a full position, a stipend, or some other alternative that is community based and the challenges each approach presented for different organizations
- iv Amanda Jones from the Center for Mental Health weighed in from the Center’s perspective in recruiting a bilingual therapist and the challenges recruiting
- v The Panel discussed if these positions are better suited in some sort of County entity
  - 1 The Panel further discussed details of how to incorporate this position at the county level (i.e., clinical supervision, practice model, etc.) as an independent contractor
- vi The Panel concurred that the goal is to provide access to Spanish speaking services
  - 1 A Spanish speaking therapist is the main goal; however, the Panel needs to consider broader initiatives that support this priority in the face of difficulties hiring a therapist
    - a Community based peer or mentor within that community
    - b Potential for community trainings in Spanish (e.g., Mental Health First Aid)
    - c Telehealth model (TCHNetwork employs 2 Spanish language therapists)
    - d Translators/language line services—while not ideal, can work
  - 2 The Panel agreed to use the San Miguel Behavioral Health Collaborative to host a discussion with Spanish speaking community members to help brainstorm creative solutions to Spanish speaking services

b. Professional Development

- i TCHNetwork presented an overview of a professional development framework to provide pd opportunities to community practitioners
- ii The Panel agreed to move forward with creating an application process for behavioral health professionals to apply for professional development stipends
  - 1 Motion to approve professional development opportunities as described on page 12 and 13 of the November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Meeting Packet
    - a *1<sup>st</sup> Sarah Landeryou*
    - b *2<sup>nd</sup> Rob Whiting*
    - c *All in Favor*
  - 2 TCHNetwork will review final proposal with Carol Friedrich who was granted authority by the panel to approve
  - 3 January 1, 2021 goal to implement

- c. Behavioral Health System Navigator
  - 1 TCHNetwork shared a draft of an RFA to fund this position within an existing organization
  - 2 Motion to approve Behavioral Health Systems Navigator RFP as described on page 12 and 13 of the November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Meeting Packet
    - a *1<sup>st</sup> Amanda Jones*
    - b *2<sup>nd</sup> Perri Gipner*
    - c *All in Favor*
  - 3 TCHNetwork will review final proposal with Carol Friedrich who was granted authority by the panel to approve
- 4. Other Business
  - a. Grant reports form organizations that received dollars from the Panel will be reviewed in the December meeting
  - b. Budget information for the Panel will be provided in the future. TCHNetwork will work with Ramona Rummel to develop a reporting mechanism
  - c. Discussed potential request from the SM County Sheriff to fully fund the CORE position; have asked the Sheriff to share funding information for the program; can anticipate a request in early 2021 to fully fund second BH position

Meeting adjourned at 10:30am

#### Future Meetings

December 17  
January 28  
February 25  
March 25  
April 22

#### Attachments:

1. October 22, 2020 Minutes
2. Behavioral Health Systems Navigator
3. Spanish Language Services
4. Professional Development

*We envision resilient connected communities in San Miguel County whose residents can easily access high quality, local, community-based behavioral health services regardless of their ability to pay, language spoken or cultural background.*