

Outreach and Education

Southern Regional Behavioral Health Policy Board

September 2023

Outreach Initiatives

1. Bringing the role of the public voices to the work of the board.
2. Increase access to and awareness of the policy board.
3. Email, in person, virtual, community events and meetings.
4. Flyers, public service announcements, or newsletters.
5. Soliciting letters from and communicating with community members.
6. Role of media and social media exposure to reach the public.

Education and Feedback

1. Value of the legislative aspect and education about the board/legislative process.
2. Leverage process through letters, position statements, local and regional requests.
3. Campaign highlighting value of public comment and removing barriers to input.
4. Value-added benefit of public involvement and giving input.
5. Educate people about policy issues and how to navigate process and forum.
6. Community input with public and stakeholder feedback about outcomes, solutions, and concrete evidence about board work.
7. Ask how we are doing with the public?

Coordinator Update

Southern Region Behavioral Health Policy Board Meeting

September 21, 2023

Southern BH Resource Guide (2023-2024)

- Behavioral Health Initiative Acronyms and Definitions
- Community Collaborative/FASTT
- Specialty and Other Courts in the Region
- Work/Task Groups and Policy Board
- National Resources and Crisis Call and Support Lines
- Statewide and Regional Resources
- Hospitals, Inpatient/Residential, Outpatient, and Clinics

Local (County) and Additional Resources

- Government, Judicial, and Legal Resources and Services
- Schools and Education
- Coalitions and Behavioral Health Providers
- Health and Social Services
- Advocacy, Senior, and Other Support Services.
- Additional Resources/Appendix

Source: <https://nvbh.org/southern-behavioral-health-region/>

Behavioral Health Needs – Gaps and Barriers

- Scarcity of behavioral health clinical services and providers in the region and the state
- Scarcity of community health workers, peer specialists, and support staff
- Difficulty recruiting, retaining, sustaining workforce in rural areas
- Lack of supportive housing/residential services/treatment
- Long waits for evaluations and intensive residential care access

Transportation/ Transport

- Residents travel long distances for work or more specialized care, if they have the resources/vehicle/support.
- Taking off for work and school, if possible, creates issues.
- Agency (law enforcement/EMS) transport residents to access general medical care, specialized services, and mental health crisis or residential/inpatient treatment.
- Traveling long distances (out-of-county) requires them to be out-of-service or unavailable, understaffed, paid overtime.
- Two of four counties and some smaller communities and tribes have no hospital, emergency, and/or shopping/groceries nearby (50 plus miles).

Youth and Family Opportunities

- Local supports for guardianship process, adult and child protection as well as foster care.
- Increased parental engagement and family support.
- Increased need for prevention programs, youth development, and school-based programs including licensed childcare and centers.
- Increased utilization, transportation, and access.

Additional Opportunities

- Increased funding, grants, staffing, support, and sustainability
- Scarcity of dental and primary care and mobile clinics and hospitals
- Support for seniors and those with disabilities including community and home health
- Support for tribal communities and veterans
- Community-and-home based services for all ages
- Homelessness and affordable housing
- Increased education and training around stigma, harm reduction, crisis intervention (CIT), emergency services, and other areas

Priority Recommendations and Strategies

- Networking and building relationships with NRHP, board, hospitals, and local/regional/state/tribal stakeholders.
- More data and resource review and collection to support reporting.
- Ongoing review of strengths, needs, opportunities, barriers, and gaps.
- Strategies, priorities, and recommendations on neighborhood-based empowerment models using action planning and collaborative systems.
- Work to support coalitions, behavioral health task and other groups.
- Increased focus on training and support for the behavioral health coordination and workforce in the southern region.
- Support and advocacy for increased funding, resources, staffing, and technical assistance for the southern region.
- Serve as a liaison between the community, board, and state.

Questions and Contact Information

Questions or Comments?

Mark Funkhouser, Coordinator

Southern Behavioral Health Region

Email: mark@nrhp.org

Phone: (775) 827-4770 ext. 19

Mobile: (812) 449-4343