

LAKE COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH COALITION

CHARTER

OVERVIEW

Lake County recognizes that the national and local mental health crisis impacts everyone. To address this crisis, the Lake County Mental Health Coalition (LCMHC) was convened. The LCMHC is a community-based initiative made up of a diverse group of stakeholders representing government, hospitals, public health, spiritual/clergy/religious/pastoral care, housing/homeless assistance, law enforcement, justice partners, community health providers, and private philanthropic funders who are focusing on data-sharing and evidence-based practices to address gaps in Mental, Emotional, and Behavioral (MEB) health services, and development of a connected sustainable continuum of care for this vulnerable population.

VISION

The Illinois Mental Health Services Strategic Planning Task Force, as established by the Illinois State Legislature in August 2011 (Pub. Act 097-0438) published the *Illinois Mental Health Strategic Plan*, which is a strategic plan for the delivery of mental health services in Illinois during 2013-2018. The plan identifies a Vision to achieve an efficient, effective, high-quality mental health service delivery system. The LCMHC's vision can mirror the State of Illinois, which states:

In Illinois, we envision: All adults with a diagnosis of, or at risk for developing, a mental illness will have access to a coordinated, integrated, well-funded mental health system that promotes recovery and social inclusion through timely access to prevention, treatment, and recovery support services.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Lake County Mental Health Coalition is to advance sustainable community-level change through collaborative efforts, such as enhanced system-wide data sharing, coordination, and collaboration, in order to better leverage existing limited resources, and maximize the impact. Additionally, the LCMHC will work collaboratively to develop a positive public awareness campaign to decrease stigma and increase an awareness of available resources for mental, emotional and behavioral (MEB) health needs.

Coalition members will strive to answer these questions:

- How to better understand the mental health needs of the Lake County population as a whole across organizations and systems
- How to communicate and share throughout the community that MEB illness is preventable and treatable?
- How to enhance programs to prevent MEB illness?
- How to share data to track persons' intercept with systems and make connections between the different services?
- How individuals access the optimal service regardless of where they enter the system?
- How to enhance the network of services to improve the continuum of care for MEB health?
- How to connect the multiple systems to provide better care coordination?

Studies reveal there is a greater chance of success when different groups collaboratively organize around outcomes, especially when tackling social issues. While there are many successful programs in Lake County, they are too often doing this good work in silos. There needs to be more coordination and a systematic solution to support the alignment of resources to make a significant, ongoing collective impact. The LCMHC will explore and identify the common goals and mutual benefits for all stakeholders (government, hospitals, police, community partners, and more).

OBJECTIVES

The ultimate objective of the Coalition is to prevent and reduce MEB health illness, including substance use disorders among adults through data-sharing and researched-based best practices designed specifically for Lake County to form stronger prevention, build capacity, address gaps, and enhance services.

To accomplish this, the Coalition will:

- Actively collect, share, and review the various disparate data sets to understand the prevalence of MEB health illness, and breadth of existing services and programs in Lake County.
- Build connections through improved data-sharing among fragmented and siloed services in order to align the services with the needs, at the appropriate level, and the optimal time.
- Address the factors in a community that increase or contribute to the risk of MEB health illness/crisis, promote the factors that minimize the risk, support, expand, and enhance preventative strategies.

OUTCOMES

- Collect and share data and analysis on local MEB health, including current services and demand need for service;
- Develop a framework and systems to consistently share data across communities and use that data to inform and create more efficient services;
- Use data to identify needs and gaps in service and then align and prioritize that list;
- Recommend policy and practices necessary to build capacity, address gaps, and enhance services;
- Build upon existing bodies of research regarding best practices and evaluate them for their applicability in Lake County;

- Design and implement a positive public awareness campaign to decrease stigma and improve health literacy by increasing an awareness of available resources for behavioral health needs, and coordinate existing community awareness efforts.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The State of Illinois uses the following principles to guide the design, delivery, and evaluation of all MEB health illness prevention, treatment, and recovery support services in Illinois. The LCMHC's efforts align with these principles:

- Services for adults with MEB health conditions are person centered, strengths based, trauma informed, and culturally competent. Services are founded on evidence-based, evidence-informed, best, and emerging promising practices.
- Services are flexible, tailored, and provided in the least restrictive setting appropriate to the individual's needs.
- Adults with MEB health illnesses are provided with the support and housing, and when applicable supportive employment. Children with emotional disorders have access to a broad, flexible array of effective community-based services and supports that are integrated at the system level and individualized to each child's and family's needs.
- The direct and immediate involvement of individuals with lived experience of MEB health illnesses to better understand and access the available continuum of care. Individuals with MEB health, health conditions are served wherever and whenever they present for care ("no wrong door").
- Services are integrated, to the greatest extent possible, across MEB health and primary care settings. Individuals involved with the criminal justice system are diverted to MEB health treatment and services as appropriate to their situation and with regard for public safety. Individuals in crisis are deflected from the criminal justice system when public safety deems the MEB health system is a more appropriate alternative.
- Outcomes are standardized and measured at the individual, provider, and service system level. Outcome data drives quality improvement efforts.

- The MEB health workforce is sufficiently sized, appropriately trained, and properly credentialed.
- Funding for MEB health services is appropriate to meet identified needs and priorities within budgetary constraints. All additional sources of funding (federal, state, private, insurance, etc.) are maximized.

RESPONSIBILITIES & GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF COLLABORATION

Members are asked to represent the interests of their respective groups and audiences and serve as advocates for the Coalition's charge. As such, members' responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Attend meetings, actively engage in discussion, and come prepared to advance meeting outcomes.
- Honor the knowledge in the room.
- Ask questions and seek clarification to ensure understanding of other's interests, concerns and comments.
- Listen and be open to viewpoints that may be different from your own and critical feedback.
- Develop reports, presentations, and other documents, as requested.
- Share data, information, and resource materials to represented groups and organizations.
- Invest time, energy and organizational resources necessary to carry out the LCMHC's objectives and encourage other colleagues and community members to do the same.
- Regard disagreements as problems to be solved rather than battles to be won.
- Be prepared to "think outside the box" and develop creative solutions to address the many interests that will be raised throughout the Coalition's deliberations.
- The LCMHC's mission will be best achieved by relationships among the members characterized by mutual trust, responsiveness, flexibility, and open communication.
- Work toward the LCMHC's common goals.

MEMBERSHIP

The Committee membership is listed in Attachment A. The term is for the duration of the committee's work.

*Portions adopted from:

- California DHCS, Healthcare Reform Committee
http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/MH/Documents/05b%20Healthcare%20Reform_Charter_v3%20sr_2011-03-26.pdf
- Illinois Mental Health Strategic Plan (2013-2018)