

## **Kerrville Recovery Community Coalition Meeting Minutes: August 24, 2020**

Call to Order: 4:00 p.m.

### **Members Present:**

Dale Trees

Claudia Richner

Brian Brannan

Rick Stolpman

Lesley Merek

Sabine Kuenzel

Christa Lovett

Randie Benno

### **Members Absent:**

Dr. Kendall Young

Kara Grant

Laura Godwin-Driggers

Leigh Ann Fitzpatrick

Dr. Steve Pautler – official resignation received

### **Visitors:**

Dawn Eastwood

Joan Cortez of HCMHDD

### **City Executive:**

Chief Dannie Smith

### **Virtual Meeting Access Connection:**

Go-To Meeting connection provided to allow access for members and public:

Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

<https://www.gotomeet.me/KerrvilleFD/krcc> You can also dial in using your phone.  
(For supported devices, tap a one-touch number below to join instantly.) United States (Toll Free): 1 877 309 2073 - One-touch: tel:+18773092073,,575391205#  
Access Code: 575-391-205

**Agenda Item 1:** Approved Minutes of July 27, 2020 meeting – Motion – Approved

**Agenda Item 2:** Other than guest presenter for Agenda Item # 3, no other guest

**Agenda Item 3:** Randie Benno introduced Joan Cortez, Crisis Intake Specialist HCMHDD; Critical Stabilization Unit, (CSU), Kerrville, Kerr County which serves 19 counties in Region 8. The facility is limited to 19 beds for the 19 counties it serves with half capacity due to COVID-19 restrictions. Ms. Cortez states the increased frequency of substance use patients the facility has experienced with limited options within the community for detox process from substances has stretched their resources to maximum limits. Ms. Cortez added that many times if a person is removed from a recovery home due to recurrence of substance use and claims suicidal ideations, the individual may be referred to the emergency department, evaluated then admitted to CSU. CSU is not equipped to handle chemical detox at the current elevated rate leaving many individuals to remain in the hospital emergency department for substance detoxification prior to mental health evaluation. Another challenge is presented as to where to discharge the individual once a detox and stabilization occurs, for that individual to receive proper continuum of care. Ms. Benno added that once an individual enters the system, HCMHDD can and will assist with ongoing guidance for cooccurring SUD/MHI with social worker and chemical dependence counseling available. Ms. Benno, Ms. Cortez, Ms. Merek and Mr. Brannan agreed to meet concerning possible inpatient treatment for two facilities in the local area that have some state-funded beds and accept Medicaid insurance, as a possible short-term solution to the current situation. They will report back at our next meeting.

**Agenda Item 4:** HRSA awarded **\$90,000,000** to **90** grantees in 38 states, to strengthen and expand substance use disorder (SUD), including opioid use disorder (OUD) prevention, treatment, and recovery services in rural areas. Three communities in Texas; El Paso, College Station, Tyler received grants.

**Agenda Item 5:** Ms. Fitzpatrick, Superintendent of KSH advised that in the overall state bed count of 2500 there is a waiting list for admissions into the state mental health facilities of 1187 individuals who have been referred for treatment. Ms. Richner advised some long-term, yet unseen, effects of COVID-19 is the amount of people in employment insecurity that will possibly increase the number of individuals turning to substances as an escape from their situations. Ms. Eastwood offered introductory ideas for consideration that include seeking assistance from local business owners, foundations, community members for scholarship program to help persons in our community successfully admit to inpatient treatment facilities for rehabilitation of those individuals to be afforded an opportunity to return to positive productive members of our local community. The long-term benefits economically will outweigh the supportive expense of funding assistance to our local area.

**Agenda Item 6:** Ms. Kuenzel and Dr. Young will begin coordination of volunteer teams to assist. Planning meeting via Zoom on Aug. 10, 2020. Ms. Kuenzel suggested participation and shoutout for Big Texas Rally for Recovery upcoming in Sept. 2020 which will be an online virtual event as well.

**Agenda Items 7:** Reports from local recovery homes indicate stabilization of COVID cases due to strict guidelines implemented in the individual homes. All homes are back to regular operations without long-term effects at this time.

**Agenda Item 8:** No other business discussed

**Next scheduled KRCC meeting: Monday September 28, 2020 Go-To Virtual format**

**Meeting adjourned at 5:17 pm**

Approve: 28 Sept 2020 Date

Chairman: Dale R. Kew

Attest: