



**PBHA**

Panhandle Behavioral  
Health Alliance

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# PBHA Newsletter

*December 2020*

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*“Mental health caring  
creates the best mental  
health care.”*

– NAMICon 2020

## Announcements

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*December 2 at noon – PBHA Stakeholders meeting via Zoom*

*February 3, 2021 at noon – PBHA Annual meeting*

*April 8 - 10, 2021 – Crisis Intervention Team Conference*

*Watch – PBHA Peace of Mind Conference. [Click here.](#)*

*Mental Health First Aid trainings available via virtual formats.  
[Click here](#) for more info.*

*100% satisfied with the info provided at the October Stakeholders  
meeting (data from Oct stakeholders meeting mini survey)*

# Work Group Co-Chairs Corner

## Community Awareness

- Contract for the Network of Care behavioral health service directory has been signed and development is underway. Workgroup is focused on launch and implementation efforts for NOC as well as other community education ideas for 2021.
- The veterans' behavioral health service directory (Combined Arms) will be implemented or coordinated by Texas Panhandle War Memorial Foundation regarding services for veterans.
- The work group's 2020 Peace of Mind Conference community event was successfully held on October 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> via virtually. [Click here](#) to watch.

- Work group members are continuing with the monthly Learning Community discussion and application of the book *Integrated Care: A Guide for Effective Implementation*.
- Starting a new project to create a workbook guide for providers regarding how to set-up and start integration within their clinics, regardless of the size of their infrastructure.
- Valerie Spanel, Associate Psychologist III and LPC at TPC, is the newest co-chair for the Integrated Care Work Group, along with Joseph Dad and Tim Bowles.

## Integrated Care

- The *Speaking Grief* event, held in early October, saw around 75 participants from the community as well as from WTAMU Social Science student body. Many attendees reached out afterwards via email to thank WTAMU and PBHA for hosting the event, stating that they found it to be impactful and very meaningful.
- PBHA will be getting a shout out at the annual Council of Social Work Education conference which will be held virtually this year. Meg DeJong-Shier and Dr. Henry Poduthase will be presenting "*A Rural Partnership Model to Teach Diversity in Field Practicum*" during this conference. One of the models mentioned will be the collaboration model, and WTAMU social work program's collaboration with PBHA to present biannual conferences on Mental Health careers options in the Panhandle.

## Behavioral Health Provider Shortage

- Potter County has been awarded a grant to pilot an indigent public defender's office to start September 1<sup>st</sup>. This will allow inmates to meet with a defense attorney at their initial arraignment for representation and counsel within days of their arrest. Early identification for treatment and competency concerns can be identified early by an individual's public defender.
- The Crisis Intervention Team Conference has been postponed to April 8<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> 2021 due to COVID-19 and will still be in Amarillo.

## Justice (League)

## Measurement & Development

- The work group has reviewed and provided feedback regarding the measures that grantees with non-direct services are required to submit as part of the reporting requirements for the Community Mental Health Grant.
- Surveys that capture satisfaction for Mental Health First Aid trainings and Learning Community discussions are ready and will be used in upcoming sessions.
- A survey that measures the use of the Rural Behavioral Health Resources Toolkit and rural behavioral health engagement and collaboration with PBHA has been developed and will be administered when convening with rural partners.

### PBHA Work Group Co-Chairs

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### Helpful Acronyms

BH/MH – Behavioral Health/Mental Health

HTC – Heal the City

LPC – Licensed Professional Counselor

NAMI – National Alliance on Mental Illness

TPC – Texas Panhandle Centers

WTAMU – West Texas A&M University

*||work groups meet monthly||*