

PUBLIC COMMENT SIGNUP SHEET

JANUARY 17, 2018

Pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. §153A-52.1, the Henderson County welcomes public comment at its meetings. Please note that each speaker is limited to three (3) minutes, unless a different time limit is announced. Also, the Board may adopt rules limiting the number of persons speaking taking the same position on a given issue, and other rules regarding the maintenance of good order.

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**Henderson County Partnership for Health
Behavioral Health Subcommittee
Presentation to Henderson County Commissioners
January 2018**

Good afternoon and thank you for the opportunity to speak to you this afternoon.

I come to you on behalf of the Henderson County Partnership for Health and especially the Behavioral Health Subcommittee. The Henderson County Partnership for Health is your community coalition, bringing together a leadership team representing health organizations, human service agencies, and county leaders to create a healthy Henderson County. Over the years PFH has led many community health efforts. Currently, PFH works in four areas:

1. Partnering with the Department of Public Health and two hospitals on the Community Health Assessment and Improvement Plans
2. Supporting the new Healthy People Healthy Carolina initiative to address obesity and chronic disease
3. Leading the HopeRX initiative to address and prevent prescription drug abuse
4. Creating and implementing a self-determined, community-wide plan to address mental health and substance abuse services as well as gaps and challenges.

It is the Behavioral Health Strategic Plan I would like to address this afternoon.

Beginning in February 2017, your community embarked on a community-wide behavioral health strategic planning process to identify challenges and to discern goals and strategies to address those challenges. This process brought together over 30 high level leaders representing the school system, the sheriff's office and jail, the district attorney, EMS, the departments of health and social services, both hospitals, Blue Ridge Health, the comprehensive mental health provider, the LME, and local agencies such as Thrive, Safelight, Council on Aging, and The Free Clinics, as well as the United Way, the Community Foundation, and others. This team met six times over the year.

Together, your community leaders identified four strategic goals:

1. Provide needed services at the right place at the right time
2. Connect people and providers to resources and education
3. Collaborate and advocate across organizational boundaries
4. Enhance the community-based system to fully support relationship-based personalized care

These are our multi-year community goals and directions.

Your community leaders then created a dashboard to track the impact of our work. Currently, we are tracking results for:

1. Hospitals: number of people presenting to both emergency departments with mental health and/or substance abuse needs
2. Judicial system: recidivism in the jail especially for those receiving behavioral health services and/or medications
3. DSS: number and percentage of children in foster care due to mental health and/or substance abuse issues
4. School system: level of knowledge/awareness of school staff of appropriate behavioral health resources to assist at-risk children and their families because students impacted by behavioral health issues require recognition that such issues begin early in life, students and families must be closely linked with appropriate services

Your community leaders crafted a memorandum of understanding to demonstrate our commitment to a community-wide system of care and to guide our collective work.

Finally, your community leaders identified our four actions for the first 12-18 months:

1. Enable and support comprehensive, appropriate behavioral health services for inmate within the detention center and upon release
2. Create a comprehensive "living road map" that connects community members to behavioral health services
3. Explore the addition of after-hours, especially evening services and care
4. Expand the availability of MAT (medication assisted therapy) services

Throughout the spring, PFH will be working to identify funding opportunities for these four priority activities. We anticipate returning to you to seek support for those activities for which there is no other funding available. Additionally, because PFH is your community's coalition whose leadership—like myself—have other responsibilities, PFH has identified the need for a new position dedicated to guiding our community behavioral health initiative.

Finally, in PFH's coordinating role with HopeRX and thanks to your generosity and that of your two hospitals, I also have several exciting invitations to share with you:

1. Wednesday 28 March, 12-4pm, in this building, Henderson County will host an opioid forum. Under Mr. Wyatt's leadership, we are crafting a local forum based upon the template provided by the state association of county commissioners.
2. Thursday 29 March, 12-2pm, at the Agricultural Center, we are a planning a combined Henderson and Buncombe County leadership discussion about the opioid epidemic across county lines.
3. Thursday 29 March, 6pm at Blue Ridge Community College, we are very excited to welcome Sam Quinones, author of *Dreamland*, to speak about the opioid epidemic.

Official invitations for all of these events will be forthcoming. On behalf of PFH, I hope you will attend these exciting events as our community comes together to further our commitment and work to address the opioid crisis.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to speak to you. I look forward to returning later this spring as we continue to formalize these plans and identify opportunities to fund these activities.

Questions.

Partnership
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WYATT