

Pueblo Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion - LEAD Key Stakeholder Policy Committee Meeting (KSPC)

October 20, 2022 ▪ 3:00pm – 4:00pm
Emergency Services Bureau, 101 W 10th Street

The LEAD Key Stakeholder Policy Committee (KSPC) meeting was called to order at 3:01 PM October 20, 2022 at the Pueblo County Emergency Services Bureau, 101 W 10th St., Pueblo, CO.

In attendance:

10 th Judicial District Attorney's Office	Marguerite Bischoff
Pueblo Police Department	Joe Garcia
Pueblo Department of Human Services	Lee Hodge
Crossroads' Turning Points, Inc.	Rob Archuleta
Community Member	Eileen Dennis
Community Member	Shaun Gogarty

Pueblo County Community Corrections	Brian Gomez
Pueblo Dept. of Public Health & Environment	Randy Evetts
Colorado Public Defender's Office - Pueblo	Alby Singleton

Absent:

Board of County Commissioners	
Pueblo County Sheriff's Office	
Community Member	Shanna Farmer

Approval of the Agenda

Ms. Zeitvogel noted that Crossroads' Turning Points had requested an amendment to the agenda to discuss reducing the required coverage from 24/7.

Mr. Evetts moved to approve the agenda; seconded by Mr. Gomez.

The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of the Minutes

Ms. Zeitvogel presented the minutes from the July 21, 2022 KSPC meeting for approval.

Ms. Dennis moved to approve the minutes from the April 21, 2022 KSPC meeting; seconded by Mr. Evetts.

The motion passed unanimously.

SURE (Substance Use Response Ecosystem) Update

Dr. Gogarty gave a brief background on SURE and explained the changes to the group structure and move from information sharing to an action-oriented organization. Ms. Zeitvogel stated that any information that KSPC members would like to share with SURE can be given to her for that purpose and that she will report important updates from SURE to the KSPC.

Fully executed subcontract for FY 23 in the amount of \$380,000

Ms. Zeitvogel stated that the case management subcontract for FY 23 was fully executed by Crossroads' Turning Points and Pueblo County on 9/6/22.

Evaluation Report Updates

Ms. Zeitvogel reported that the Evaluation Report by CU Denver is still under review by BHA and has not yet been released.

Crossroads' Turning Points Request to Reduce Coverage from 24/7

Ms. Zeitvogel introduced a request from Crossroads' Turning Points to explore the possibility of reducing program coverage from 24/7. Mr. Archuleta stated that the 24/7 coverage was initially set up to respond to diversions, but the last diversion occurred in April 2021. He stated that 24/7 coverage is difficult and that the only people calling LEAD in the middle of the night are clients who are high or want to talk. Services are not available in the middle of the night, so no services are being provided at night. He stated that clients are better served when staff are refreshed and that it is difficult to maintain staff. He proposed 8 AM – Midnight coverage since overnight response is not being utilized by law enforcement. Dr. Gogarty suggested 8 AM to 11 PM with some shift overlap. Mr. Archuleta also mentioned the need for weekend coverage, the difficulty of retaining staff when they must take call, and the need to pay staff to carry the on-call phone. Mr. Archuleta said that Crossroads' can continue to cover LEAD 24/7 with five staff, but that staffing issues could result in overtime, program services being unavailable or delayed some days. Mr. Archuleta stated that Crossroads' will continue to maintain 24/7 services if required.

Mr. Hodge agreed that it is difficult to retain staff and prevent burn-out. He stated that the program may have started with one idea based on other programs and that Pueblo County would tailor the program to local needs. He asked if the contract is amenable to removing the 24/7 response. Mr. Gomez stated that the contract is not amenable to that change and the issue should have been brought up during recent subcontract negotiations. Mr. Gomez further stated that the 24/7 response was a requirement of the RFP and may have caused other agencies to not bid for the contract. Because the requirement was laid out in the RFP, removing it now could put Pueblo County at risk. Mr. Gomez stated that the County Manager and County Attorney must be consulted before taking any further action on this issue. Mr. Gomez explained that the 3-year RFP was issued 1 year ago, and the annual contract renewal was signed last month by Mr. Davis, at which time these concerns should have been raised for consideration by the Board of County Commissioners.

Mr. Archuleta stated that Crossroads' must have grace granted in the event of staff illness and inability to staff the program. Mr. Gomez stated that Crossroads' needs to review their staffing, see what they can do in an emergency situation, and continue recruitment with the intent of delivering the current contract as approved and reiterated that the next step is review by the County Manager and County Attorney.

The issue was tabled.

Quarterly Report

Ms. Zeitvogel presented the third quarter report to be submitted to BHA. The report covers the period from 7/1/22 to 9/30/22.

LEAD maintained capacity to respond to law enforcement referrals by pausing community referrals until additional staff could be hired. The pause began 6/26/22. Two new staff started with LEAD on 11/19/22.

LEAD staff continue to work with NeonOne to fine tune the Civicore case management system. The Civicore system needs some additional data fields and reporting options to allow all data reports to be created using one system. Currently, the Project Manager creates some reports using data from an Excel spreadsheet. Other data points are manually extracted by LEAD staff.

LEAD has received 391 referrals. 246 people have enrolled in LEAD with 238 remaining active; eight have been discharged.

No diversions have been received since April 2021. In 2022, 15 social referrals and 45 community referrals have been received.

Demographics:

Age: The majority of LEAD clients of both genders fall between the ages of 26 and 40.

- Males: 3 aged 18-25, 63 aged 26-40, 26 aged 41-64
- Females: 17 aged 18-25, 106 aged 26-40, 31 aged 41-64

Race:

- Males: 81 White, 5 American Indian, 5 Black, and 1 of unknown race.
- Females: 132 White, 7 American Indian, 5 Black, 3 multiracial, and 7 of unknown race.

Hispanic Ethnicity:

- 37 male participants are Hispanic, 22 Non-Hispanic, and 33 are of unknown ethnicity.

- 86 female participants are Hispanic, 26 Non-Hispanic, 1 identifies as both, and 41 are of unknown ethnicity.

Presenting issues:

- Co-occurring mental health and substance use issues: 161
- History of or current use of heroin or opioids: 142
- History of or current use of meth: 166
- History of or current drug related criminal charges or convictions: 207

Ms. Zeitvogel shared the following success story:

When this individual enrolled in LEAD, they struggled with substance use, alcohol and severe mental health problems. Early on, they struggled with LEAD engagement, substance use and mental health treatment compliance. They lost custody of their child and were close to losing their apartment. After asking LEAD for help with treatment, they were able to find stability and begin working toward their future. Since then, the client has gained control of their substance use and mental health issues, regained custody of their child and plans to graduate Magna Cum Laude with a degree in Psychology this coming May.

Other Business

Mr. Archuleta reported that LEAD Supervisor Todd Smith will be leaving the program.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 19, 2023, 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM.

Adjournment

Dr. Gogarty moved to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Mr. Hodge.

The motion passed unanimously

The meeting was adjourned at 3:36 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Zeitvogel
LEAD Project Manager, Pueblo County