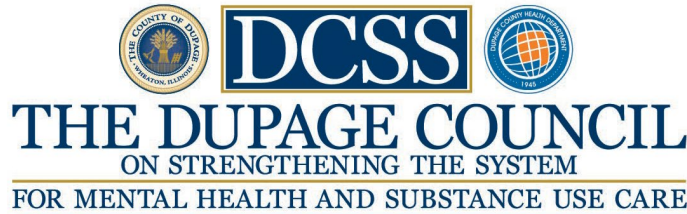


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MEETING MINUTES NOVEMBER 17, 2023

- 1. CALL TO ORDER:** Co-Chair Adam Forker called to order the November 17, 2023 meeting of the inaugural meeting of the DCSS at 9:07AM. Twenty-one members were present. Mr. Forker noted that Co-Chair Conroy will be attending the meeting shortly, but had to address an unexpected issue from earlier this morning. Mr. Forker also shared that the meeting will follow the requirements of the Open Meetings Act.

2. ROLL CALL

Council Members Present:	Chair Conroy Director Forker Mr. Berlin Mr. Burton Ms. Cahill Ms. Charvat Dr. Dolgin	Ms. Hess Representative Costa Howard Ms. Garcia Mr. Geiger Dr. Jorgensen Ms. Kerger Chief Krestan	Ms. Miceli Chief Newton Mr. Schwarze Dr. Sullivan Representative Villa Mr. York
Council Members Absent:	Ms. Bates; Judge Marchese; Ms. Siebert; Mr. Tornatore;		

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Steve Stefani from Hope for Healing provided remarks on the work their organization is doing on harm reduction services for substance use disorders.

4. CO-CHAIRS REMARKS

Mr. Forker thanked members for their commitment and participation on the Council and lending their expertise to address the needs of the community for mental health and substance use disorders. The trends, data and statistics all point to the need to address these issues and is reflective in the results from community surveys, in partner organizations feedback and in the increasing complexity that is presented in those already served by the Health Department.

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Mr. Forker also shared his appreciation to DuPage County Chair Conroy and Co-Chair of the council for her vision, track record, commitment to action and passion to address the mental health needs of the community; these are the leadership qualities needed to make an impact in the community.

5. INTRODUCTIONS

Each member was asked to provide a brief introduction and share what they are looking forward to as a serving member of the Council.

Chair Conroy joined the meeting at 9:34AM and shared the following comments. The Council is a joint operation of the DuPage County Board and the DuPage County Health Department. Chair Conroy's mission in the formation of the Council was to bring together community stakeholders with experience in mental health and substance use care, recovery, criminal justice, public health, prevention, public policy and education. Chair Conroy shared the importance of having elected officials at both the local and state level involved to achieve policies and legislative goals to support residents who are suffering and need help.

Chair Conroy shared statistics from the Health Department's suicide prevention 988 hotline and Crisis Center call center and the DuPage County Coroner's office reflecting the need to address mental health in DuPage County. To date, 68 deaths have been reported as suicide in 2023. The coroner also provided information on the increase in deaths due to overdose from 2021 to 2022. The DCSS was formed with the purpose of dedicating resources to address both issues, by strengthening the safety net, identify where there are gaps and develop plans to bridge those gaps by developing services, policies, and solutions to positively impact people's lives, erase the stigma surrounding both issues and to save lives.

6. COUNCIL CHARTER AND GOALS

Mr. Forker discussed the Charter that was developed which outlines the Council's mission, goals, membership, meeting format and funding. A copy of the charter is included with the minutes.

7. DISCUSSION

- A. What do you see as the pressing issues, priorities, and/or gaps around mental health and substance use in your professional and/or personal experience?*
- a. The lack of opioid-specific education in middle schools.
 - b. Education is essential in addressing the stigma surrounding mental health issues and substance use disorders and is needed at a young age. Deaths that occur by overdose or suicide are not often discussed.
 - c. Multi-cultural and bilingual services are essential and needed for mental health professionals. Peer-to-peer support is needed for individuals in their

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native language as well as the need for understanding of different religious backgrounds. Education is also needed for parents creating an awareness that the drugs available today are different and more lethal; parents need to feel comfortable and have the tools available to have difficult conversations with their children to address these issues.

- d. Addressing the needs and providing mental health and substance use disorder services and treatment to underinsured individuals and those with Medicaid.
- e. Addressing the lack of workforce in the fields of mental health and substance use treatment.

B. Where do you think this Council has the most opportunity to impact these issues?

- a. Addressing policing related to the Community Emergency Services and Supports Act (CESSA) which requires emergency response operators such as those at 911 centers, to refer calls seeking mental and behavioral health support to a new service that can dispatch a team of mental health professionals instead of police. Providing police departments with training and support.
- b. Providing individuals in need with appropriate services and resources and reducing the use of emergency departments when other services might be more appropriate. The Central Receiving Center (CRC) currently in the developmental stages will be essential in addressing these challenges.
- c. Public education is needed on mental health issues and addressing public stigma. Providing messaging that help is available including where to and how to receive help. Assisting those with mental health issues while also helping those who are in need regardless of who they are and what they do.
- d. Creating awareness of the services that are already available, including promotional materials and signage in areas visible to large segments of the population.
- e. Engagement, making it so mental health treatment is prioritized and available when needed and the resources available so that individuals can be connected to those services, including in school settings. NAMI is currently working in high school settings and looks to further expand into Junior High settings.
- f. Changing systems to address mental health including systemic issues such as how mental health is treated in criminal proceedings to ensure positive outcomes for individuals who need treatment.
- g. DCSS will provide the opportunity for elected officials to hear directly from those working to address both mental health and substance use disorders and how resources can be applied at a larger scale versus

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addressing a single issue. The opportunity to model pilot initiatives for the remainder of the state.

Co-Chair Conroy summarized how the Council will provide the opportunity to acknowledge that it is okay not to be okay. COVID brought to light that everyone is impacted by the struggles of mental health. It is essential for this council to assist in providing the care needed to recover from these issues.

C. Crisis Recovery Center Update

Deputy Director for Behavioral Health Services, Lori Carnahan from the DuPage County Health Department provided an update on the agency's work to build a Crisis Recovery Center (CRC). The CRC is the final piece of having an Ideal Behavioral Health Crisis System in DuPage County; a best-in-class behavioral health system that ensures all DuPage County residents will have "someone to call, someone to respond, and somewhere to go" when experiencing a mental health or substance use crisis.

Slated to open in 2025, the CRC will allow family members, first responders, and law enforcement officials to bring individuals experiencing a mental health or substance use crisis to an easily accessible location on the Health Department's Wheaton campus where they can be assessed and cared for by trained medical and mental health professionals and connected with community resources for continued support.

The CRC will build upon the agency's existing crisis services and is funded through a variety of public and private funding, including generous support from the DuPage County Board

8. NEXT STEPS

The next meeting of the DCSS is scheduled for January 22, 2024 @ 10:00AM at the Linda A. Kurzawa Community Center. An e-mail will be sent out with additional information.

9. OLD BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business before the Council.

10. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business before the Council.

11. ADJOURNMENT

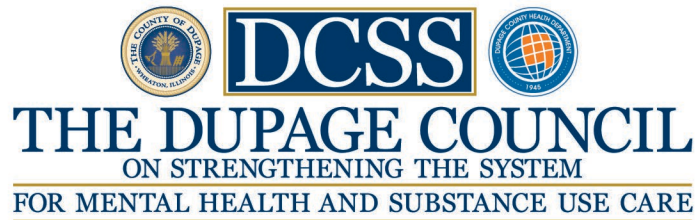
The meeting was adjourned at 10:30AM

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Respectfully Submitted,

Penny Chanez
Recording Secretary

DRAFT



CHARTER

Council Mission

The Council is a joint operation of the DuPage County Board and the DuPage County Health Department. The Council will consist of members who specialize in mental health and substance use disorder treatment, recovery, criminal justice, public health, prevention, and education. This Council will include members of local and state elected offices as well as community stakeholders and people with lived experience.

The Council is responsible for advising DuPage County elected and community leaders and for creating awareness among the general public to address mental health and substance use issues. The Council will focus on needed program development, supporting infrastructure, and policy recommendations and may assist with other related issues as necessary. The Council will provide annual updates to the County Board and to the DuPage County Board of Health. The Council shall convene regularly at least every quarter or as frequently as needed. All meetings shall adhere to the Illinois Open Meetings Act.

Council Goals

The Council is an interagency-interdisciplinary advisory task force with the goal of catalyzing public understanding and public policy innovation through community partnerships to strengthen the local behavioral health system.

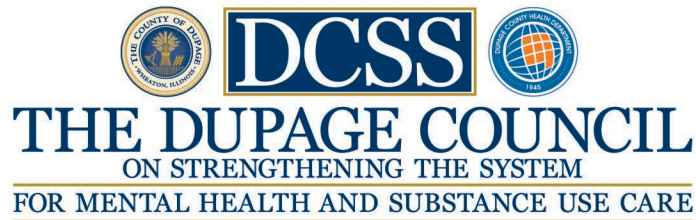
- Professionally and comprehensively assess mental health and substance use disorder needs and disparities within DuPage County.
- Advocate for effective and actionable policies, initiatives, and programs at the local and state levels.
- Increase awareness of the need for resources and destigmatize mental health and substance use treatment and recovery.
- Measure success from desired programs and initiatives.

Membership

The Council is Co-Chaired by DuPage County Board Chair Deborah Conroy and DuPage County Health Department Executive Director Adam Forker. The Council is comprised of members appointed by the DuPage County Board Chair. These members are a cross-section of state and local officials, behavioral health specialists, first responders, judicial officials, health care system representatives, and individuals with lived experiences.

Meeting Format

Meetings will occur quarterly or as needed, in person, at the Linda A. Kurzawa Community Center at 115 North County Farm Road, Wheaton, IL.



Interested members of the community are invited to attend the Council meetings, which will be open and announced on the DuPage County Board and DuPage County Health Department websites.

Funding

The Council will be supported by an initial annual investment of \$250,000 from the DuPage County Board. Funds will support innovative grassroots projects, transformational improvements, and a behavioral health communications campaign to educate communities about behavioral health prevalence, risk factors, and symptoms; to broadly reduce the stigma associated with engagement in behavioral health support and treatment; to offer response guidance for family, caregivers, and community; to provide coping strategies; and to increase access and usage of behavioral health services.