**Healthy Washington County**

**Behavioral Health Subcommittee Work Plan**

The Behavioral Health Subcommittee held a Zoom meeting on 3/31/2021. The purpose of the meeting was to review the HWC Action Plan for 2020-2022 related to Substance Use Disorders and Mental Health. This included revisiting the measures, assessing progress and revising some goals.

Substance Use Disorders

Improve Access to Recovery

--The pandemic has created increased ED visits for substance use

--There are more Peer Support Treatment options

--There does seem to be increased ability to get people into treatment

Prevent Overdose Fatalities

--Overdoses were up during the pandemic and have decreased in the past two months (January was 24, February was 5 and March was 3)

--Mobile Crisis is exploring a new grant to expand hours

--Reduction in opioid pill dispensed. Meritus is close to the decrease by 50% goal in milligrams!

Increase Understanding, Anti-Stigma and Provide Support

--Washington County Recovers conducted 3 Events last fall and has 3 events planned for this spring. They will be held on the last Friday of April, May and June at University Plaza from 11am – 2pm.

Areas Identified for Improvement

--No crisis beds for the population. A grant is being sought to develop crisis beds at Meritus and then be able to hand-off the client to peer support and connect to treatment

--Group therapy needs of Adolescents—funding is being pursued to create Adolescent Club Houses (after school) for at risk Youth.

Mental Health

Improve Access to Care

--There are still delays for patients to see a provider. ED visits were down in the early stages of the pandemic, then increased with more youth being seen.

--Tele-Mental Health was adopted quickly because of the pandemic and has surged in usage.

We are seeking numbers for:

--Mobile Crisis Interventions

--ED Diversions

--Hospital Admissions

Suicide Prevention

--10% decrease in the rate of death by suicide by 2022. 50% decrease in the rate of suicide by 2030

* Standardized data collection/dissemination
* Increased public awareness of resources
* Training for community members as well as clinicians
* Increased access to safety features such as gun locks, safe storage for firearms and medications
* Expansion of mobile crisis services

--Adults screened for depression has increased particularly as Meritus has made this a quality measure for their practices

Increase Understanding and Anti-Stigma

--Seven Mental Health First Aid trainings were held in Washington County last year despite the pandemic. The plan is to complete at least nine MHFA trainings over the next year.

--The Photo Voice project was halted because of the pandemic. We hope to revitalize it possibly for 2022.

--Social Media and Support Campaign

--There have been five Facebook Live programs to share about a Mental Health Topic and plans are being made to offer 8 more programs over the next year.