

MEETING NOTES

Behavioral Health Model Ordinance Advisory Committee Kick-off

September 9, 2020

2:30 – 4:30 pm

Zoom Meeting called by the Department of Commerce and BERK Consulting, Inc.

Meeting Goals: Create clarity and buy-in on purpose and project goals. Prepare for the deeper discussion coming around facility types.

Attendees: Dave Andersen, Pamela Duncan, Jacob Ewing, Matthew Gower, Paul Jewell, Amber Leaders, Sharon Lee, Matt Mazur-Hart, Devon Nichols, Melodie Pazolt, Ernie Rasmussen, Juliana Roe, Rick Sepler, Brent Simcosky, Sharon Swanson, Julie Tomaro, Richard VanCleave, Rick Walk, Michelle Weatherly, Rich Zwicker

Absent: Brenda Sipes

Welcome and Introductions

Vivien gave Zoom instructions and Amber delivered a land acknowledgement. The group then went around and introduced themselves.

Project Overview

Amber provided an overview of the project, including a project timeline. She also highlighted the four key questions that we want help answering.

Sharon Lee asked about the definition of behavioral health and whether it was inclusive of certain population groups. Richard VanCleave agreed the definition should be inclusive.

Rick Walk asked if we will talk about supporting needs for projects.

The group agreed to the overall goals of the group.

Vivien talked about BERK's role for the project, which includes research into the current state of siting, interviewing local decision makers, drafting the ordinance, and developing a communications toolkit.

Committee Discussion and Storytelling

Rick Sepler asked about the origins of the legislative mandate. Devon shared that it originated in the Governor's budget to recognize that stigma is a huge challenge to creating more community-based facilities.

Sharon noted that some jurisdictions have rules that could potentially run afoul of fair housing rules, which we should look into.

Pam noted that healthcare has few challenges, whereas behavioral health often does. Brent noted that we might take 'behavioral health' out of the labeling to help with framing. Dave noted that many of these facilities are basically outpatient clinics, or multifamily housing. He encouraged us to focus on the characteristics of the facility and services provided, not the attributes of the persons seeking services.

Richard wants to include regular withdrawal management and residential treatment on the list of facility types. Richard said we should have treatment and DOH license as a cutoff for behavioral health facilities.

Melodie noted that HCA is required to create a registry of peer recovery models.

Rick Walk mentioned the need to think about Enhanced Public Facilities (EPF) and the size of a facility in determining where it's best sited. Rick Sepler noted how difficult the EPF process can be.

Richard shared the following link: <https://law.justia.com/cases/federal/district-courts/FSupp/799/450/1379360/>

Matt Gower noted the importance of combatting stigma in helping site facilities.

Meeting Wrap-Up and Next Steps

Vivien wrapped up and talked about what we'll cover at our next meeting in October. She also conducted a virtual poll to select the best meeting time in October.

Amber sought input to livestream future meetings.