

2021

Behavioral Health Summit

August 26, 2021

UNL Innovation Campus
2021 Transformation Drive
Lincoln, NE 68508

This inaugural Behavioral Health Summit provides an opportunity to come together with other health care professionals and community members to learn about resources specific to Nebraska, explore innovative peer solutions and steps health systems should take to integrate behavioral health.

Who should attend?

- Hospital Leaders
- Nursing Leaders
- Quality Leaders
- Behavioral Health Professionals
- Rural Health Clinic Directors
- Allied Groups and Associations
- Nebraska State Senators



Agenda

7:30 - 8:00 Registration

8:00 - 9:00 Behavioral Healthcare in 2021 & Beyond: Riding the Leading Edge of the Wave

Robert R. Althoff, MD, PhD, Associate Professor of Psychiatry, Pediatrics & Psychological Science
The Larner College of Medicine at the University of Vermont

- Introduction by Ann Schumacher, MBA, MSN, RN, FACHE, President, CHI Health Immanuel

9:00 - 9:45 Behavioral Health Education Center of Nebraska
Partnering to Address Behavioral Health Workforce Shortages

Marley Doyle, MD, Director, Behavioral Health Education Center of Nebraska

- Introduction by Margaret Woepffel, MSN, RN, CPHQ, Vice President, Quality & Data,
Nebraska Hospital Association

9:45 - 10:15 Break & Innovative Solution Displays

10:15 - 11:00 Behavioral Health Landscape and Designing the Future

Sheri Dawson, R.N., Director of the Division of Behavioral Health, NE Dept of Health & Human Services

Linda Wittmuss, PA, BS, Director of the Division of Behavioral Health, NE Dept of Health & Human Services

- Introduction by Margaret Woepffel, MSN, RN, CPHQ, Vice President, Quality & Data,
Nebraska Hospital Association

11:00 - 11:45 Mental Health and Suicide Prevention in Nebraska

David Miers, PhD, LIPC, Director, Bryan Medical Center Behavioral Health

- Introduction by Bryan Health

11:45 - 12:45 Lunch & Current Outlook from Nebraska DHHS

Dannette R. Smith, CEO, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services

-Introduction by Laura J. Redoutey, FACHE, President, Nebraska Hospital Association

-Lunch Sponsored by Sober Peer



12:45 - 1:45 Innovative Behavioral Health Hospital Programs - Youth Panel

Stephanie Knight, LIMHP, MA, Behavioral Health Admin Director, Fillmore County Hospital

Amber Pelan, Program Director, Saunders Medical Center

Dennis Vollmer, MHD, MBA, LMHP, Director, Psychiatric Residential Treatment Center,

Boys Town National Research Hospital

-Introduction by David Slattery, Director of Advocacy, Nebraska Hospital Association

Innovative Behavioral Health Hospital Programs - Adult and Senior Panel

David Cates, PhD, Director, Nebraska Medicine

Lori Mazanec, MHA, CEO, Box Butte General Hospital

Tracy Moore, RN, IBCLC, Lactation Consultant and OB Nurse Navigator, Methodist Fremont Health

Chris Nichols, CEO, Fillmore County Hospital

Tammy Sassaman, LCSW, Behavioral Health Program Coordinator, Family Service Association

Jennifer Sparrock, LCSW, LIMHP, Manager Psychiatric Emergency Services, Nebraska Medicine

-Introduction by Andy Hale, MPA, Vice President, Advocacy, Nebraska Hospital Association

Agenda

1:45 - 2:00 Break & Innovative Solution Displays

2:00 - 3:00 Innovative Behavioral Health Hospital Programs - Hospital and Law Enforcement Partnership

Anne Boatright, MSN, RN, SANE-A, State Forensic Nursing Coordinator and Sexual Assault Payment Program Administrator, Nebraska Office of the Attorney General

Lindsay Kroll, LIMHP, Mental Health Coordinator, Omaha Police Department

-Introduction by David Slattery, Director of Advocacy, Nebraska Hospital Association

Innovative Behavioral Health Hospital Programs - Internal Hospital Programs

David Cates, PhD, Director, Behavioral Health, Nebraska Medicine

Robin Conyers, MSOP, BAN, RN, Vice President, Mkt Behavioral Services, CHI Health

Stephanie Knight, LIMHP, MA, Behavioral Health Admin Director, Fillmore County Hospital

Becky Sullivan, MS, Wellness Manager, Mary Lanning Healthcare

-Introduction by Andy Hale, MPA, Vice President, Advocacy, Nebraska Hospital Association

3:00 - 3:15 Break & Innovative Solution Displays

3:15 - 4:15 Behavioral Health Integration: Treating the Whole Person

Ken McCartney, MHAL, Market Director for Outpatient Behavioral Services, CHI Health

Ann Schumacher, MBA, MSN, RN, FACHE, President, CHI Health Immanuel

-Introduction by Laura J. Redoutey, FACHE, President, Nebraska Hospital Association

4:15 Closing Remarks

Laura J. Redoutey, FACHE, President, Nebraska Hospital Association

Speaker Biographies

ANNE BOATRIGHT, MSN, RN, SANE-A

Anne Boatright is a certified Forensic Nurse Examiner (FNE) and is currently the State Forensic Nursing Coordinator and Sexual Assault Payment Program Administrator in the Nebraska Office of the Attorney General. Anne strives to create a best practice standard in the Nebraska so victims of crime may receive the same care regardless of their location within the state. She previously headed up the Forensic Nurse Examiner Program at Methodist Health System in Omaha. She and members of the team cared for victims of sexual assault, strangulation, domestic violence, and human trafficking. Anne began her work as a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner in 2009.

In October of 2016, Anne was awarded the Transformational Nursing Leader of the year through the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Magnet Nursing Conference.

Anne serves as a core member of the Nebraska Human Trafficking Task Force (NHTTF), especially regarding the health care system and professions as key components of the "Community Partners" portion of the NHTTF.

DAVID CATES, PhD

Dr. Cates is a licensed clinical psychologist, Director of Behavioral Health at Nebraska Medicine and Vice Chair of Clinical Operations in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. Dr. Cates also serves as the Behavioral Health Consultant to the Nebraska Biocontainment Unit and the National Quarantine Unit. His areas of professional interest include the psychological effects of medical isolation and quarantine, promoting resilience in healthcare workers, treatment of children and adolescents suffering from a variety of psychiatric disorders and suicide prevention. Dr. Cates is a member of the American Psychological Association and the Nebraska Psychological Association where he serves on the Ethics Committee. In addition to over 50 local, regional, national and international presentations, he has authored or coauthored a dozen peer-reviewed journal articles and two book chapters.

ROBIN CONYERS, MSOP, BAN, RN

Robin Conyers has over 26 years as a psychiatric patient care nurse. She has cared for children, adolescents, adults and geriatric patients. Her health care leadership experience for the past 23 years includes managing multiple inpatient units, leading successful teams, and leading the implementation of 2 electronic medical record systems. Her collaboration with local colleges of nursing led to the implementation of a Dedicated Education Unit model of education for nursing students. She led the development, design and implementation of an after hour's emergency telehealth partnership and the development and implementation of a complete care model redesign focusing on team nursing approach to providing care to inpatients. Robin has a BAN Nursing Degree and holds Masters in Organizational Performance.

SHERI DAWSON, RN, BS

Sheri Dawson has served as Director of the Division of Behavioral Health in the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) since being appointed by Governor Pete Ricketts in 2015. She graduated from Bryan School of Nursing and Nebraska Wesleyan University. She has devoted over 34 years to the prevention, treatment and recovery of individuals with mental illness and/or substance use disorders. She has served in a variety of roles in Public Health and Behavioral Health at Nebraska DHHS over the last 20 years. Sheri served in nursing administration roles in mental health and substance use treatment in both private and public settings. She was an Associate Director of Nursing at the Lincoln Regional Center from 1988-1993. Sheri currently serves as the Vice President on the Board of National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors (NASMHPD) and the Region VII Representative to the National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors (NASADAD) Board of Directors. She represents State Behavioral Health Commissioners on the NRI Board. She is passionate about ensuring behavioral health is a normalized and integrated part of the healthcare conversation.

MARLEY DOYLE, MD

Dr. Doyle is a dedicated medical educator and expert in reproductive psychiatry who practices adult psychiatry at the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC). She is currently the Director of the Adult Outpatient Division, Associate Program Director for the Creighton-UNMC Psychiatry Residency, and Associate Director of the Women's Reproductive Program at UNMC. She is the co-chair of the Graduate Medical Education (GME) Steering Committee and was actively involved in the visioning and execution of the new residency program application.

Dr. Doyle is a recognized leader in the field of gender equality in academic psychiatry and continues to pursue this as a research interest. She has presented ten peer-reviewed abstracts at national conferences and has six publications in peer-reviewed journals. Dr. Doyle is also a frequent lecturer in the medical school and multiple residencies at UNMC. She has won numerous teaching awards and is a member of the Gold Humanism Honor Society.

STEPHANIE KNIGHT, LIMHP, MA

Stephanie Knight has been the Director of Behavioral Health Services at Fillmore County since its creation in 2011. In addition to an active outpatient behavioral health clinic, Fillmore County Hospital operates a 10-bed Geriatric Psych Unit as well. She is passionate about whole-person health and integration and has enjoyed working in a hospital setting where opportunities to use these skills are plentiful. With a clinical background as a licensed independent mental health therapist and drug and alcohol counselor, Stephanie started her career in mental health in 2002 and worked in a variety of mental health settings while earning her master's degree. These have included a residential psychiatric facility working with dually diagnosed adults experiencing homelessness, youth psychiatric inpatient treatment centers and crisis intervention work. She currently serves on the Board of Health with Public Health Solutions, as chairperson for the Behavioral Health Advisory Committee, is a member of Nebraska Association of Behavioral Health Organizations, and volunteers with the local Teammates Chapter.

LINDSAY KROLL, LIMHP

Lindsay Kroll is a Licensed Independent Mental Health Practitioner with 13 years of experience working in the mental health and criminal justice fields. Lindsay received her Master's degree in Forensic Psychology from The Chicago School of Professional Psychology. While being a native to Nebraska, Lindsay has worked in Chicago, Denver and Omaha within various forensic settings including juvenile prison, jail-based adult behavioral health programs and outpatient settings. She spent 8 years developing the continuum of Crisis Response Services with Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska to include mobile crisis response, post-crisis stabilization services, co-responder program and peer support. Currently Lindsay is the Mental Health Coordinator with the Omaha Police Department overseeing the development of the Behavioral Health and Wellness Unit and implementation of the Co-Responder Program citywide along with other mental health related initiatives for the Department. Lindsay is an executive member of CIT of the Heartland in Omaha. She is a Vicarious Trauma and Compassion Fatigue trainer. Lindsay currently serves as a member of the Region 6 Behavioral Health Task Force, Douglas County School Threat Assessment and Management Team, Nebraska Violence and Risk Assessment Cadre, Metro Area Suicide Prevention Coalition and is a member of the Association of Threat Assessment Professionals (ATAP).

LORI MAZANEC, MHA

Lori Mazanec is a native of Alliance. She earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration with an emphasis in Accounting from Chadron State College in 1997, and her Masters in Healthcare Administration from Bellevue University in 2018. Lori began her career as the interim Accountant at Western Nebraska Community College before pursuing tax accounting. She worked for R.K. Nelson and Associates in Alliance for three years.

In 2001, Lori entered the healthcare industry and joined Box Butte General Hospital (BBGH) as the Finance Assistant. She was promoted to Controller in 2008 which also included leading the finance department. She took the role of Chief Operations Officer at BBGH in 2013. In July 2016, Ms. Mazanec was named Interim CEO, a position she held for 4 months until officially accepting the role of Chief Executive Officer in December 2016.

Ms. Mazanec is a graduate of the 2004 Leadership Box Butte program and Class VIII 2011 Nebraska Hospital Association Leadership Institute. She is also a Certified Just Culture Champion. Lori is currently an at-large representative of the NHA Board of Directors, member of the NHA PAC Steering Committee and Chair for the NHA HQIC Advisory Council.

KENNETH MCCARTNEY, MHAL

Ken McCartney has worked within CHI Health over the past 20 years in a myriad of positions, all supporting Behavioral Health Services. In his current role he has accountability for all of CHI Health's Outpatient Programs across Nebraska and into southwest Iowa. This entails 130+ Behavioral Clinicians and results in over 150,000 annual patient visits. Partnering with our consumers, academic partners and community stakeholders the CHI mission is to create partnerships that transform lives resulting in healthier communities.

Leveraging strategy and innovation, Mr. McCartney's work enables them to support programming that increases early and timely access to Behavioral Services. In addition to his work at CHI Health, he is actively involved in various community advocacy groups and serves on the Board for NAMI Nebraska.

DAVID MIERS, PhD, LPC

Dr. Miers is the Director of Behavioral Health Services at Bryan Medical Center in Lincoln, NE. He has been with Bryan Medical Center for 24 years. Dr. Miers received his B.S. from Nebraska Wesleyan University, a M.S. from St. Cloud State University, and a PhD from the University of Nebraska. He is a Licensed Independent Professional Counselor. He is a member of the American Association of Suicidology and is a Suicidologist. He is the co-founder and past co-chair of the Nebraska State Suicide Prevention Coalition and current Board Member. He is on the leadership group for the Lincoln/Lancaster County Nebraska Youth Suicide Prevention Coalition. Dr. Miers assisted in the development of the Lincoln Lancaster Local Outreach to Suicide Survivors (LOSS) team in Lincoln, NE in 2009, and has assisted in the development of other LOSS teams in Nebraska and LOSS team development on a national level. He has served in the past on several local boards in various capacities including the Lincoln Lancaster County Homeless Coalition, Lincoln Human Services Federation and Lincoln's Child Advocacy Center, Nebraska Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI), New Americans Task Force, Lincoln Lancaster Mental Health Foundation, State Critical Incident Stress Debriefing Team and the Disaster American Red Cross Mental Health Team. Dr. Miers is a graduate of Leadership Lincoln Fellows 33 and was a member of the 2018-2019 Leadership Lincoln Program Planning Committee. Dr. Miers is the current Vice President for Acute Care Services for the Nebraska Association of Behavioral Healthcare Organizations (NABHO) and on the board of the Seniors Foundation.

TRACY MOORE, RN, IBCLC

Tracy Moore is an OB Nurse Navigator and Lactation Consultant for Methodist Fremont Health. She is part of a team who meets with the Obstetric patients during their pregnancy to screen for psychosocial support needs, to navigate them to available resources in the community and to provide prenatal breastfeeding education. She was a nurse at Methodist Fremont Health in Labor, Delivery, Recovery, Postpartum before her role as Nurse Navigator and Lactation Consultant. She is a member of the Nebraska Breastfeeding Coalition Leadership Team. She went to nursing school at Nebraska Methodist College in Omaha NE. She views supporting mother's psychosocial well-being as vital to breastfeeding success and overall child wellness.

CHRIS NICHOLS

Chris Nichols has been the CEO of Fillmore County Hospital since 2017. In addition to being a 20-bed Critical Access Hospital, Fillmore County Hospital also operates a 10-bed Geriatric Psychiatric Unit as well as numerous outpatient mental health services and programs. Prior to this role, he was CEO of Horn Memorial Hospital in Ida Grove, IA from 2013-17. With a clinical background as a licensed physical therapist, Chris started his healthcare career as a PT in 1998 and worked in a variety of settings before getting into management and various administrative roles. He currently serves on the AHA Regional Policy Board, the NHA Board of Directors, the NHA Policy Development Committee and the local Teammates Chapter and County Extension Board.

AMBER PELAN

Amber Pelan has worked in the human services field for over 15 years and is currently the Program Director for Saunders County Youth Services. Amber writes and manages grants with the goal of bringing new services into the county including, but not limited to, mental health programs, family support, an out-of-school suspension program and community response. Her office focuses on providing rehabilitative programming to truant and delinquent juveniles as well as prevention services. Amber began her work with developmentally disabled adults and then transitioned to working with abused/neglected children and juvenile delinquents with Children and Family Services. Amber also was a Field Training Specialist for the Center on Children, Families and the Law with UNL. Amber serves on several boards and is a volunteer firefighter/EMT. Amber has a Bachelor's degree from UNL in Psychology and English and is currently working on her Master's in Public Administration through UNO.

TAMMY SASSAMAN, LCSW

Tammy Sassaman is a Licensed Mental Health Practitioner (LMHP) and a Certified Master Social Worker (CMSW) with 20 years of experience as a clinical supervisor and therapist. Tammy has been supervising Behavioral Health Therapists specializing in work with youth and families in schools and in a medical center. She has provided supervision to over 25 interns and supervised Community Response Partners providing home-based services. Tammy served as a board member for the Region V Behavioral Health Advisory Board for nine years. She is currently working for Family Service Association in Lincoln. In her role as a Behavioral Health Program Coordinator, she oversees the daily operations of the Behavioral Health Program. As a therapist, Tammy has provided evidence-based practices to youth and adults at the Saunders Medical Center and at various schools. She specializes in trauma work and addressing areas of anxiety, depression, divorce and anger. Tammy has attended several trainings over the years focusing on both supervisory skills and therapeutic modalities. Her past experiences include working in a residential treatment center, providing family support services and providing wraparound services to adolescents on probation.

ANN SCHUMACHER, MBA, MSN, RN, FACHE

Ann Schumacher, MBA, MSN, RN, FACHE, is currently President of CHI Health Immanuel Omaha and Mercy Council Bluffs, IA. Ann has been a nurse for over 33 years. She received a Bachelors in Nursing from College of St. Benedict in St. Joseph Minnesota and a Masters in Nursing from the University of Nebraska Medical Center. She also received a Masters in Business Administration from the University of Nebraska and holds the FACHE credential.

Ann has been in leadership roles in health care since 1987 and for the past 11 years has served as the President for CHI Health Immanuel in Omaha. Under Ann's leadership, CHI Health Immanuel was one of the only hospitals in Nebraska recognized as a Top 100 Hospital. Immanuel was also recognized by Stanford University as a top value hospital achieving excellence in quality while remaining low cost. Immanuel has also had year over year growth as it seeks to provide healing to those served. Ann has had system wide executive responsibility for the neuroscience, orthopedics, spine, rehab, and behavioral service lines.

Ann has served on various local, regional, and national boards. She currently is a trustee for Creighton University. She serves on the Catholic Charities board, the CUES board, the Charles Drew board, the Nebraska Spine board, and the Archdiocese Development Committee. Ann has a passion for the poor and underserved and for assembling highly engaged, mission driven teams who partner in creating healing for all served.

JENNIFER SPARROCK, LCSW, LIMHP

Jennifer Sparrock is the Manager of Psychiatric Emergency Services at Nebraska Medicine. After spending 25 years working in the mental health field in both hospital and community-based settings, Jennifer joined Nebraska Medicine in 2017 as the Manager of the system wide Social Work department. Jennifer has a deep commitment to often underserved and vulnerable populations, most especially those living with mental health and/or substance use disorders. Having spent her entire career working in Omaha, she has developed positive working relationships with many health and community-based systems which allow for collaborative approaches in providing the best care for those being served.

Jennifer has served on the Board of Directors for the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Nebraska, most recently as Vice President and is currently the President for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) Nebraska chapter. Jennifer holds a master's degree in social work from the University of Nebraska at Omaha, and is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and Licensed Independent Mental Health Practitioner.

BECKY SULLIVAN, MS

Becky Sullivan has been the Wellness Manager at Mary Lanning Healthcare since 2002 and has helped lead the effort to integrate wellbeing, engagement and strengths as a powerful trio for employees in the organization. Design components in her department's programs center on Gallup's five areas of Wellbeing and work individually with employees on how to leverage their personal strengths to meet their goals. Her team also partners with other community businesses to offer similar programs and she frequently speaks and provides educational programs on various wellbeing topics. Becky also works with many volunteer and community organizations outside of Mary Lanning to help lead efforts that drive overall wellbeing. She received a bachelor's degree in Journalism from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and a Master's degree in Health Promotion from Nebraska Methodist College. She is also a Gallup Certified Strengths Coach. Becky's top 5 Gallup Strengths are: Ideation, Maximizer, Relator, Input and Activator.

DENNIS VOLLMER, MHD, MBA, LMHP

Dennis Vollmer has worked his entire career at Boys Town and during this time he has been the Director of various programs. This includes the Director of Specialized Treatment Foster Care, Director of Respite and Assessment Center, Director of Specialized Treatment Group Homes, and he is the current Director of the Psychiatric Residential Treatment Center (PRTF). He has enjoyed ensuring that his programs are strength based, least restrictive and family focused. Mr. Vollmer has a MS in Human Development from the University of Kansas and an MBA from the University of Nebraska at Omaha. He is also a Licensed Mental Health Practitioner and enjoys both the clinical and administrative aspects of being the Director of the PRTF.

LINDA WITTMUSS, PA, BS

Linda Wittmuss is currently serving as the Deputy Director for System Integration with the Division of Behavioral Health in the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. Linda is a graduate of the Physician Assistant program of the University of Nebraska Medical Center and Alcohol and Drug Studies at the University of California, Mission Viejo. She has primarily worked in the public sector system in both primary care and behavioral health treatment and prevention settings and in the provision of direct service and administrative roles. Her current service to the Division includes strategic planning, cross system integration, and quality and performance management to promote system change.

Registration Information



NHA 2021 Behavioral Health Summit
August 26, 2021
8:00 a.m. - 4:15 p.m.

Registration deadline: August 18, 2021

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER ONLINE](#)

Registration & Lodging

Registration to participate is \$175 per person

For those needing overnight accommodations, there is a block of rooms at the Courtyard Marriott in the Haymarket at the rate of \$119 + tax. The cutoff date to make reservations at the discounted rate is 8-4-21. Be sure to call the hotel directly to make a reservation at (402) 904-4800 or use the link below to book online:

[BOOK HERE](#)

**Any questions contact Heather Bullock
at hbullock@nebraskahospitals.org**

Thank you to all of our Sponsors



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