

BEYOU BOARD MEETING

March 26, 2024



MEETING MINUTES

Welcome/Introductions, Jorden Laducer-Dix

BeYOU Board Information:

Five Core Competencies of the Board:

- Serving as advisors to the North Department of Health and Human Service programs and staff on LGBTQ+ health-related issues.
- Increasing knowledge of public health policies and concepts.
- Providing recommendations for enhancing the delivery of regional and local services to the LGBTQ+ community.
- Advising the North Dakota Department of Health on communication strategies.
- Serving as a platform for community concerns to the North Dakota Department of Health and Human Services.

The Core Competencies aim to:

- Maintain consistent structural mediums.
- Foster community building.
- Provide a space for LGBTQ2S+ individuals to share their opinions on health-related matters and disparities.
- Address the unique needs of the LGBTQ+ community.

Recent Focus:

- The board emphasized a shift towards increased structure and focus on addressing the needs of the LGBTQ+ community.
- Efforts have been directed towards collaboration with the North Dakota Department of Health and Human Services to better serve the community.

BeYOU Requirements:

- Applicants must be current residents of North Dakota.
- Applicants must commit to attending and actively participating in at least 75% of the bimonthly meetings.
- Attendance at an orientation session is mandatory, which may coincide with the initial meeting.
- Serve as a platform to bring community concerns to the North Dakota Department of Health and Human Services.
- Act as ambassadors and advocates for the LGBTQ+ community and the BeYOU Advisory Board.
- Engage in discussions and leadership opportunities related to LGBTQ2S+ issues.
- Seek out and listen to other opinions and experiences within the LGBTQ+ community.
- Incorporate or consider all feedback provided by the Health Advisory Board.

- Advise the North Dakota Department of Health and Human Services on strategies to actively seek community input through various channels, including written, electronic, or oral communication.
- Bimonthly meetings are expected to last one hour each.

Projects:

- Total Funding: \$30,000 for the current year.
 - \$20,000 carried over from the previous year.
 - \$10,000 allocated for the current year.
- Funding will continue at \$10,000 annually for five consecutive years.
- HIV Walk in Fargo:
 - Past project involving funding development for an HIV awareness walk in Fargo.
 - Included educational components such as myths and truths posters.
 - Potential for partnership with a statewide nonprofit for a similar event.
- Doula Project Proposal:
 - Alicia Belay, Assistant Director of the Community Engagement Unit, will present a doula project proposal described as cutting-edge and unique.
- Training Series:
 - Developed a training module to educate North Dakota communities on working with the LGBTQ+ community.
 - Offered as part of a training series, allowing individuals to become HealthEquity certified through the Community Engagement Unit.
- Open Discussion Panels:
 - Past initiatives involving open discussion panels to facilitate dialogue and education on LGBTQ+ issues within the community.

These projects highlight various initiatives to raise awareness, promote education, and foster community engagement around LGBTQ+ issues in North Dakota. Collaborating on similar projects or exploring new ideas based on past successes can further advance the goals of the BeYOU board.

Special Guest, Alicia Belay, Doula Project

Task Force Collaboration:

- Collaboration with the Foundations of Perinatal Health North Dakota and involvement of legislators interested in maternal child health.

Utilization of Funding:

- Leveraging funding from the Well Women Program to address maternal and child health issues.

Focus on the Pregnant Person's Experience:

- Recognizing the importance of the pregnant person's experience within the healthcare system.
- Identifying pregnancy as a critical period for accessing healthcare and reaching individuals who may not have otherwise engaged with healthcare services.

Medicaid Enrollment and Preventative Health:

- Noting the increase in Medicaid enrollment during pregnancy and the opportunity it presents for focusing on preventative health measures.
- Emphasizing the importance of preventative health interventions during pregnancy, which can positively impact both maternal and child health outcomes.

Doula Support:

- Introducing the Doula Project as a potential initiative to support and assist pregnant individuals throughout their pregnancy journey.
- Highlighting the role of doulas in providing emotional, physical, and informational support during pregnancy, childbirth, and postpartum periods.

Preventative Health Education:

- Recognizing that preventative health extends beyond regular annual exams and includes comprehensive support and education for pregnant individuals.

In conjunction with efforts to address preventative Women's Health and maternal child health priorities, the Doula Project can significantly improve healthcare access, outcomes, and experiences for pregnant individuals in North Dakota.

Several steps need to be taken to make the initiative of providing Medicaid coverage for doulas and increasing diversity among doulas happen.

Advocacy for Medicaid Coverage:

- Engage in advocacy efforts to lobby for Medicaid coverage for doula services. This may involve working with legislators, policymakers, and healthcare stakeholders to highlight the benefits of doula support for pregnant individuals and advocate for including doula services in Medicaid coverage.

Increasing Diversity Among Doulas:

- Address the lack of diversity among doulas by actively recruiting and training individuals from diverse backgrounds, including immigrant and indigenous communities.
- Collaborate with organizations like the New American Consortium to provide training opportunities for women from immigrant communities to become doulas.
- Offer financial support, such as stipends, to encourage participation in doula training programs, particularly for individuals who may face financial barriers.

Training and Certification:

- Arrange for high-quality training and certification programs for aspiring doulas, ensuring that trainers are nationally recognized and experienced in providing comprehensive doula training.
- Coordinate logistics for training sessions, including securing a location, arranging travel and accommodations for trainers, and providing necessary resources and materials for training participants.

Pilot Project Implementation:

- Implement a pilot project to train a cohort of individuals as doulas, with a focus on postpartum care.
- Monitor and evaluate the pilot project to assess its effectiveness in increasing diversity among doulas and improving access to doula support for pregnant individuals from underserved communities.

Sustainability Planning:

- Develop a sustainability plan to ensure the continuation and expansion of the doula training initiative beyond the pilot project.
- Explore opportunities for ongoing funding and partnerships to support doula training programs and sustain diversity efforts within the doula community.

By following these steps and collaborating with stakeholders, it's possible to advance the goals of Medicaid coverage for doula services and increase diversity among doulas, ultimately improving maternal and child health outcomes and enhancing the support available to pregnant individuals in North Dakota.

The BeYOU Board could help get this project up and running by offering financial support, help with recruitment and in return, helping someone within the LGBTQ2S+ population who is focusing on healthcare, advocacy work for pregnant individuals.

The vote was taken, and 8 members approved, so we will move forward with the project.

Open Discussion/Recap

- Discussion on how this Doula project would fit into the BeYOU board's mission.

Next meeting and closing

- May 28, 2024, at 5:00 PM

In Attendance

Jorden Laducer-Dix	Deven Styczynski
Jacqueline Hassett	Hayden Kemp
Robbie Hassett	Justin Lien
Cody Severson	Katelyn Stewart
Christopher Wegner	Barry Nelson
Charles Vondal	Hannah James
Kayla Hochstetler	G Scheel
Alicia Belay	