

The summaries below are compiled from four public meetings hosted by the Barren River Area Development District from August to October of 2024 as part of a regional substance use disorder pilot project, funded in partnership with the KY General Assembly and the Cabinet for Health & Family Services, Department for Behavioral Health, Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities (DBHDID). BRADD held four public meetings across the District asking stakeholders six guided questions about the proposal of the regional response. Additionally, BRADD hosted an online survey, asking the same questions through November 2024. A separate summary document for the survey results can be found on our dedicated landing page, linked here: <https://planning.bradd.org/opioid-summit/>.

### Public Meeting # 1

August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at the BRADD Conference Center 4pm-6pm

The inaugural Public Meeting was attended by a diverse group of stakeholders, including staff from the BRADD (Barren River Area Development District), County Judge Executives, healthcare social workers, LifeSkills staff, the mayor and mayor-elect of Bowling Green, Western Kentucky University (WKU) representatives, and local jailers. There were a total of 21 individuals present for the meeting.

Following introductions, Eric Sexton, Joe Dan Beavers, and Eric Hagan provided a comprehensive overview of the Anchor Project, highlighting its three core components. After the presentation, the floor was open for questions. Jailer Aaron Shirley inquired about the funding sources for the Mental Health Crisis Intake Center and its ongoing operational costs. In response, Joe Dan Beavers explained that Medicaid would serve as the primary funding source, with additional financial support anticipated from the volume of referrals and other current LifeSkills Mental Health Programs. This funding model is supported by academic research projecting crisis incident volumes.

Seven key questions were displayed visually for attendees to provide their input. Responses to these questions, along with additional feedback from all public meetings, are compiled and attached separately.

### Public Meeting # 2

September 9, 2024 at the TJ Samson Pavilion Community Center 5pm-7pm

The second Public Meeting was attended by 20 individuals representing a wide range of community sectors, including staff from BRADD, LifeSkills, TJ Samson Community Hospital, local corrections, law enforcement, the county attorney's office, the local YMCA, and Mental Health community outreach organizations.

Eric Sexton of BRADD, Joe Dan Beavers of LifeSkills, and Eric Hagan of Med Center Health provided an informative overview of the Anchor Project. The discussion mirrored many of the topics covered in the first public meeting, with the addition of specific questions related to the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for the design and construction phases of the project.

The Life Learning Center also garnered significant interest, and Mental Health providers raised questions regarding the number of individuals expected in each cohort, as well as the duration of the classes. To encourage participant engagement, the same seven guided questions from the previous meeting were posted, allowing attendees to provide their feedback and responses.

### **Public Meeting # 3**

October 3, 2024 at the Hart County Extension Office 330pm-530pm

The third Public Meeting saw the participation of approximately 11 individuals, representing a diverse group of stakeholders, including staff from BRADD, Lifeskills, behavioral health professionals, mental health therapists, the County Judge Executive, the Mayor, the Barren River District Health Department, and Fiscal Court. A special guest, Alecia Webb Edgington from the Northern Kentucky Life Learning Center, also joined the meeting.

Eric Sexton of BRADD provided an overview of the Anchor Project, outlining its three key components. Joe Dan Beavers of LifeSkills then presented on the Mental Health Crisis Intake Center. Following this, Alecia Webb Edgington introduced the Life Learning Center, offering both a presentation and a video that provided valuable insight into how this initiative could be adapted for the BRADD region.

Eric Sexton also addressed the funding and operational aspects of all three components of the Anchor Project, while Matt Hunt from the Barren River District Health Department presented data related to the project's expected outcomes.

After the presentations, the floor was opened for discussion. Attendees engaged in a productive conversation regarding the reduction of time law enforcement officers may spend with individuals in crisis, as well as the responsibilities surrounding transportation for those individuals.

The meeting concluded, as with previous sessions, with seven guided questions for attendees to respond to or submit additional queries.

### **Public Meeting # 4**

October 17, 2024 at the Knicely Conference Center 4pm-6pm

The fourth Public Meeting was attended by 19 individuals representing a wide range of sectors, including BRADD, Lifeskills, Senior Perspectives, mental health and medical professionals, the School Superintendent, State Representative, Med Center EMS, the Circuit Judge, and WKU staff.

Eric Sexton of BRADD presented an overview of the Anchor Project, highlighting its three core components. Joe Dan Beavers of LifeSkills followed with a more in-depth explanation of the

Mental Health Crisis Intake Center. Matt Hunt of the Barren River Health Department provided a summary of the Life Learning Center, and Eric Sexton discussed the role of the Office of Drug Control Policy in the initiative.

Following the presentations, the floor was opened for questions and discussion. Steven Parrott from Med Center EMS shared insights on the increasing number of Narcan administration calls in recent years. Attendees raised a variety of questions, including whether mental health providers would be able to make referrals, if insurance would be billed, whether medical staff would be involved, if education and training for providers would be available, and whether the Life Learning Center would offer educational opportunities related to specific trades or career paths.

As with previous meetings, the session concluded with the posting of seven guided questions for attendees to respond to, along with a survey that participants could complete online.