



Advisory Work Group Input to Annual CREOKS Goals

The Advisory Work Group, consisting of consumers and family members representing the CCBHC catchment area, offers the following input for the Board's consideration of goals for the CREOKS FY 2025 Strategic Plan:

1. Establish Peer Support Warm Line/Volunteer Lines for mental health, parents, transitional aged youth, substance use, aging, etc.

Brent was planning to start this if we received the Tulsa CCBHC proposal. Consumers have asked for this because people are lonely and don't have anyone to talk to between sessions. This isn't the same as a crisis hotline, but it has the potential to offset a crisis.

2. Establish volunteer opportunities for the people we serve in our CCBHC clinics.

Consumers on the committee think it would be great for the people we serve to support others. Brent will say that we do plan to use volunteers, but this is more in the case of using consumers as peers in nonbillable services which involve working with people. For example, greeting people in our waiting room(s), or helping out with other activities. The use of volunteers so far has been focused on consumers helping with pantries and clothing closets.

3. Request for PATH programs in our clinics for all CCBHC counties.

Advisory workgroup members are very concerned about the homeless. We are required to do outreach to people experiencing homelessness at all CREOKS clinics. Our homeless services have been mostly clinic based. This suggestion is that the housing specialists in all our clinics do outreach directly to homeless camps in their counties.

The Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) is a federal project with the purpose of helping the homeless to connect and remain in behavioral health services. We have a PATH contract in Cherokee County and in Pittsburg County. PATH conducts a lot of nonbillable time establishing rapport with homeless persons. Once a person is enrolled in CREOKS, the PATH worker continues to check in with the person for a max of six months.

4. Create short term housing options for runaway youth or children who are aging out of the Foster Care system.

Again, members are concerned about the homeless.



5. Request for Family Treatment Court in Adair, Cherokee, and Sequoyah Counties.

Family members on the committee are concerned about getting support to pregnant women with substance use disorders, as well as to minimizing birth defects for their children. We already have successful Family Treatment Court programs in Okmulgee and Sapulpa.

6. Develop Services for the Aging in our CCBHC clinics to include therapists trained in the 4M model, nurse care management, and occupational therapy.

This is already underway in Sapulpa and Wagoner. We are trying to get it started in BA, Tulsa, and Tahlequah but nothing has really started yet. We are by no means ready to do this in all our CCBHC clinics.

7. Establish a CREOKS Medicaid transport service.

Medicaid transport must be able to accommodate people with a wheelchair. Sooner select is using Uber but Uber doesn't always have this capacity.

8. Create a short video capturing the history, values, and mission of CREOKS for new employees and for anyone wanting to know about CREOKS.

The Workgroup has members from Sapulpa who have been receiving services from CREOKS for literally decades. It has been asked that we capture the history and experiences of staff and consumers from the early days of CREOKS, while we still have the chance. This could be a short documentary or something on the website, etc. and would be great for company and community morale.

9. Request for the development and reinstatement of PSR programs.

This, again, is addressing loneliness. Sapulpa used to have a strong PSR program, which was shut down during COVID. Since COVID, there is a group which meets twice a week for approximately 1.5-2 hours. The observation is that this is "not worth the effort" compared to when people would spend the day at PSR and developed a sense of community.

10. Request for an overnight drop-in center.

An overnight drop-in center is to address overdoses. One member was in the San Francisco Bay area for several years, where they had these drop-in centers. The idea is that people may abuse substances more at night to avoid the cold and dark. Providing a place with light and warmth during the night could reduce substance abuse. This is not intended to be the same as homeless shelter.