

*St. Clair County Community Mental Health Authority*

**Advisory Council Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday, November 16, 2022

**PRESENT:**

**Advisory Committee Members:** Nora Condland, Alesha Fay, Nancy Levitt, Cynthia Raymo, Ruth Thick, Tosia Tucker, Nancy Thomson (Chairperson)

**CMH Staff:** Kathleen Gallagher, (Program Director) Sarah Herrle (Community Relations Representative), Jami Strickler (CMH Recording Secretary)

**ABSENT:** Debra Johnson (Chief Executive Director), Lisa Clark, Martha Partipilo, Mark Paulus

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**I. CALL TO ORDER/AGENDA CHANGES –N. Thomson**

Nancy Thomson, Advisory Council Chairperson called the meeting to order at 12:04 p.m.

**II. REVIEW/ACCEPT MINUTES - Group**

The Advisory Council members accepted the minutes from October 19, 2022 as presented.

**III. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE –D. Johnson**

**A. None**

**IV. ODYSSEY HOUSE SERVICES**

Ms. Fay provided information to the attendees regarding Odyssey house services. The Odyssey House Port Huron is located at 718 Griswold Street. It is publically funded and offers intensive outpatient services to people with substance use disorders or dual diagnoses. Additionally, it supports 2 recovery houses which offer 14 beds for women and children in need of transitional housing. It has future plans to expand its services to include a facility for men’s transitional housing. Odyssey House services outside of Port Huron include women, men and family residential recovery housing, detox centers, and outpatient programs. There was discussion on the progression of services and transitioning from outside facilities into the Odyssey House Port Huron. Information packets were provided to Council members.

**V. CMH Updates- K. Gallagher**

**A. NAMI**

The Agency is still awaiting the results from our application to organize a new NAMI chapter in our area. Questions regarding the function of NAMI, and the process in which its by-laws are created were asked and answered.

**B. Health Department Partnership**

Agency representatives met last week with Liz King and Amy Bishop from St. Clair County Health Department with the purpose of perusing additional grants that may be available to school regarding mental health clinics. The goal being to expand access to

mental health treatments and services to area children. We look forward to hearing back.

**C. Marine City Location**

Construction continues on the new Marine City location. It appears to be on track to finish up in the spring of 2023. The current Marine City building will be sold once the staff have been relocated.

**D. Electric Avenue Building**

Region 10 remains in the Electric Avenue building as renovations continue at their new office. There was some delay due to having to revamp plans to accommodate Access staff being relocated to them from Genesee County.

**VI. CCBHC Updates –K. Gallagher**

The Agency continues as a Certified Behavioral Health Clinic, and still receives enhanced funding from the State as part of the demonstration project. We have shifted focus to discovering new ways to increase funds to services that can be provided to individuals without Medicaid.

**VII. Community Relations Update- S. Herrle**

**A. CMH Players**

Ms. Herrle reminded the Council the shows for It's a Wonderful Life, a Radio Play run this weekend, and tickets are still available. Tickets are \$5.00 a person and shows will take place on Friday, November 18<sup>th</sup> at 12:00pm and 7:00pm, as well as Saturday, November 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm.

**B. The Great Grocery Gift**

The Agency has again organized the Great Grocery Gift which will provide extra food staples to Individuals within the Agency to help them through the holidays. Donation bags with a suggested grocery list are available at all CMH locations. It is requested these be returned by Friday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, so that they may be distributed before the Thanksgiving holiday.

**VIII. Policy Review**

- None

**IX. Council Round Table**

- Tosia Tucker brought to the attention of the Council the need for the CMH website to be updated to reflect the current Advisory Council Membership.
- There was general conversation amongst the Council members regarding the current lack of options within the county for individuals experiencing homelessness. There may be some relief coming within the next few months as the recent Housing Summit has produced some leads.
- Nora Condland updated the Council regarding her "Fish" art project. She is currently waiting to hear back from an grant that would help fund materials. Additionally she began discussion within the meeting questioning what options were available within the community for individuals in need of medications.
- Alesha Fay questioned what the process was for the Agency for individuals interested in taking part in the Suboxone Program. Ms. Gallagher explained the procedure, and the time

table involved. Concerns regarding the length of time it may take some individuals to receive Suboxone were discussed, and Ms. Gallagher offered to assist in any way she was able as needs arose.

- Cyndy Raymo questioned which prescribers were currently employed by the Agency.
- Ruth Thick provided Council members with information on the Port of Hopes and its Board application.

**X. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 12:58PM by Nancy Thomson

**XI. Next Meeting**

**Wednesday, December 21, 2022 from 12PM-1PM via Lifesize or in person**

Respectfully Submitted By:

Jami Strickler  
Recording Secretary

cc: Debra B. Johnson, Chief Executive Officer  
Kathleen Gallagher, Program Director  
Tracy Goyette, Executive Secretary  
Advisory Committee Members  
Marcy Cameron  
Electronic Record