

St. Clair County Community Mental Health Authority

Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, December 21, 2022

PRESENT:

Advisory Committee Members: Nancy Thomson, Nora Condland, Mark Paulus, Martha Partipilo, Alesha Fay, Amy Sanderson, Lisa Clark

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

ABSENT: Barbra Belkiewicz, Larry Doherty, Nancy Levitt, Cythia Raymo, Ruth Thick, Tosia Tucker

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

Nancy Thomson, Advisory Council Chairperson called the meeting to order at 12:09 p.m.

II. THERAPY DOG- Cheryl Randall & Lola

Ms. Randall and her therapy dog Lola were invited to today's Advisory Council meeting by member Nora Conland to speak on the benefit of service animals in mental healthcare, schools, hospitals, and other situations. Ms. Randall provided handouts to the Council. The difference between series dogs and therapy dogs was explained and discussed. Ms. Randall related stories regarding her own personal experiences with her dogs in therapeutic settings, and provided her contact information to any members in search of more information.

III. REVIEW/ACCEPT MINUTES - Group

The Advisory Council members accepted the minutes from November 16, 2022 as presented.

IV. FREQUENCY OF MEETING-Group

The frequency of the Advisory Council Meetings was discussed amongst the Council. It was voted by all members present that the meetings should continue on a monthly basis.

V. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE –D. Johnson

A. Special Ballot 597 & 598

At the time of the Council meeting these measures had not been approved. More information on upcoming similar movements will be available and provided at our January meeting.

B. Community Forums

The purpose of these forums, which will be hosted at each of the Community Mental Health offices, is to receive feedback on the services the Agency provides from the community. A flyer was provided with dates and locations of the forums and Council members are encouraged to spread the word.

C. CSCB Annual Reports

Copies of the CSCB Annual Reports were provided to each of the Council members for reference. The report is an overview of the collaborative initiative happening within the community thru the Community Services Coordinating Body.

VI. CMH Updates- K. Gallagher

A. Mood Lifters

Mood Lifters is a course that has been created by a psychologist from the University of Michigan. The purpose of the group is to provide a way for Individuals to learn skills that will help them cope as they wait for other services that have lengthy wait lists. The Agency intends to have CMH Staff take the 12 week trainings that will allow us to provide these courses to Individuals both at CMH and within the community. Early data of these courses show significant improvement vs Individuals who go without.

B. CLS Shortage

Currently the county is experiencing an extreme shortage of CLS workers. CLS offers a variety of services and respite care, and there is a great need for these providers. There was discussion regarding possible opportunities for recruitment at schools, and at the Tech Center, etc. This subject will be revisited at the next meeting.

C. Men's Shelter Update

There is currently a delay at the projected sight for temporary Men's Shelter, but the hope is to be open shortly into the New Year. There is at present some overflow room in Macomb Shelters. Options for men experiencing homelessness in St. Clair County continue to be worked on.

VII. Community Relations Update- S. Herrle

A. Creative Arts Contest

Ms. Herrle provided 3 flyers to the Council which explained the Agency Art Contests currently offered to school aged children in the County. There is a book mark contest for Elementary, a writing contest for Middle School, and an art contest for High School aged student. Information was provided to all area schools detailing participation guidelines. This is the 20th year of the contest

B. Traveling Art Show

The Agency will be hosting the Community Mental Health Association of Michigan's Traveling Art Show from January 6th -27th in the Galley at the main building on Electric Avenue. This art has been submitted by Individuals who receive public mental health services throughout the state of Michigan.

VIII. Policy Review

• 05-001-0045 Reporting Suspected Abuse or Neglect

Copies of the policy up for review were provided to Council Members. Any feedback is requested by Monday January 9, 2023.

IX. Council Round Table

- Martha Partipilo requested update on the status of finding software that would allow

better communications between group homes, and guardians/family. Dann Hayes will be invited to the next meeting to hopefully bring some insight on the topic. Additionally Ms. Partipilo voiced concerned regarding some difficulties she has encountered regarding the need for electronic payments options for service providers to group homes thru Innovative.

X. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 1PM by Nancy Thomson

XI. Next Meeting

Wednesday, January 18, 2023 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