

St. Clair County Community Mental Health Authority

Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 15, 2023

PRESENT:

Advisory Committee Members: Nancy Thompson, Lisa Clark, Alesha Fay, Cynthia Raymo, Amy Sanderson, Ruth Thick, Tosia Tucker

CMH Staff: Debra Johnson, (Chief Executive Officer) Kathleen Gallagher, (Program Director), Sarah Herrle (Community Relations Representative), Jami Strickler (CMH Recording Secretary)

ABSENT: Barbra Belkiewicz, Nora Condlan, Nancy Levitt, Martha Portipilo, Mark Paulus

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

Nancy Thomson, Advisory Council Chairperson called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m.

II. REVIEW/ACCEPT MINUTES - Group

The Advisory Council members accepted the minutes from February 15, 2023 as presented.

III. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE –D. Johnson

A. Dementia & Alzheimer’s Luncheon

The annual luncheon, initiated by Marsha Haynes, will take place on May 24th 2023. Advocates of the year awards will be presented to community members. Nominations are accepted, and the Council is encouraged to recognize anyone they feel deserving of acknowledgment for their work with the affected community.

B. Behavioral Health and Substance Use Disorder Treatment

A packet of the MDHHS demonstration was provided to Council members. This presentation was given by Ms. Farah Hanley to State Legislature with the purpose of providing an overview of the States system on Behavioral Health and SUD Services, including the funding available across the State, and where it is allotted. Members were encouraged to forward any questions they may have regarding this information to the State in effort to continue communication and feedback from those community members directly affected by these issues.

IV. CMH Updates- K. Gallagher

A. TALKSPACE Update

TALKSPACE rollout has begun, and there has been an increasing interest in the community. We continue to encourage individuals to take advantage of this program. Council members are asked to help spread the word.

B. Children’s Advocacy Updates

Assistant Division Director, Heidi Fogarty met last week with Dr. Elizabeth Hertel, the Director HDHHS, regarding the Agency’s concerns on Children’s Services. Many area children are hospitalized with mental health crises with nowhere to go for treatment, due to the lack of appropriate homes for children in need. Dr. Hertel has stated that she is not in favor of any type of seclusion or restraint treatments, which is problematic with children who are in need of this type of management in homes to remain safe. This perpetuates the lack of homes for children in need. There was discussion regarding personal experiences with these issues, and Council Members are encouraged to voice their concerns to the State Legislator in order to precipitate dialogue which could lead to change.

C. Medicaid Redetermination

The Covid Health Emergency is coming to an end in May. Redetermination packets have started to come out. Over the next year, it will be important for Individuals to respond to outreaches as they occur. MDHHS has a toolkit sent out for media updates, and DHS is pushing out information as well. It has been asked that the Agency do its best to update all Individual contact material to reflect the most accurate information.

V. Community Relations Update- S. Herrle

A. Run for Recovery

The Agency’s annual Run for Recovery will take place on May 13th, 2023. Runners and volunteers are asked to contact sccmh.org/events/run-for-recovery or call the main office for more information. Flyers provided to Council members.

B. Annual Awards Celebration

All Council members will be receiving invitations to attend the Agency Annual Awards taking place May 5, 2023.

C. The Keel

The digital news magazine focuses on the communities, businesses and residents of the Blue Water Area and often spotlights Programs and employees of St. Clair County Community Mental Health.

VI. Old Business

- None

VII. Policy Review

- None

VIII. Council Round Table

- Ms. Sanderson informed the Advisory Council that Michigan Rehabilitation

Services will be moving their office starting Monday to the Kroger Plaza in Port Huron.

- Ms. Thomson updated the Advisory Council that Region 10 is still targeting to move out of the Electric Avenue location as of June 1, 2023. No further information is available at this time.

IX. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 12:50PM by Nancy Thomson

X. Next Meeting

Wednesday, April 19, 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

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