

*St. Clair County Community Mental Health Authority*

**Advisory Council Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday, April 17, 2024

**PRESENT:**

**Advisory Committee Members:** Nora Condland, Harold Powell, Martha Partipilo, Cynthia Raymo, Alesha Fay, Nancy Thompson

**CMH Staff:** Debra Johnson (Chief Executive Officer), Jason Marocco (Assistant Division Director), Sarah Herrle (Community Relations Representative), Jami Strickler (CMH Recording Secretary)

**ABSENT:** Lisa Clark, Ruth Thick, Amy Sanderson,

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**I. Call to Order/Agenda Changes –N. Thompson**

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

**II. Review/Accept Meeting Minutes - Group**

The Advisory Council members accepted the minutes from February 21, 2024 as presented.

**III. Executive Director Updates – D. Johnson**

- **Strategic Plan**

Ms. Johnson provided the new Agency Strategic Plan to the Council for reference. The first progress report has indicated positive outcomes. It was decided that in an effort to ensure all Agency staff is aware of the updated plan, each Program should develop its own “Program Goal” that reflects how it will endeavor to accomplish what is outlined in the strategic initiatives of the plan.

- **SONS Open House**

SONS hosted an Open House at the former Harrison School yesterday. There was an excellent turn out, and it appears that this will be a welcome, and well received addition to the area.

- **Integrated Healthcare**

The Agency has been invited to attend the State of the County meeting on May 10<sup>th</sup>, where it is expected mental health will be a covered topic. Community Mental Health will be allowed to provide packets to every table that outline and summarize the work that the Agency has done within the County, and how it compares to previous years. Packets were provided to the Council for reference.

- **Senate Bill 227**

With the vacant spots in the Michigan House being filled, it is anticipated that Senate Bill 227 will be pushed through with no further problems. The Agency continues to develop its plan for a children’s crisis housing program to address the

ongoing issue of placement for affected children in our community.

#### **IV. CMH Updates- J. Marocco**

- **Classes**

The Agency continues to offer a variety of groups and classes to the Individuals we serve. The rooms available at the Harrison Building have offered more spacious accommodations to larger groups like Music and Minds. Additionally the Agency has expanded the Groups available at our Marine City location on Broadway

- **Training**

Mr. Marocco explained that the Agency continues to offer opportunities for training to both staff and community members. Next month the State of Michigan will be coming to the Main Office to provide a Prolonged Exposure Therapy training to interested staff and our regional partners. Grant Funding will be used for additional training opportunities. More information to come.

- **PHPD Annual Report**

The Port Huron Police Department referenced its partnership with the Agency in its annual report, and in it discussed the benefit of having the Agency's embedded clinician, Sara Schoenberg, as a source for calls references persons in mental health crisis. Advisory Council members expressed interest in having Sara attend an upcoming meeting to discuss her role as an embedded clinician.

- **Veterans Issue**

Veterans receiving services have recently encounter some road block regarding obtaining authorizations for services form the Veterans Association through the Agency. Part of the explanation for this is availability of a VA therapist at the Yale location, however the availability of appointments to meet with this therapist are not easy to come by. The Agency has reached out to the appropriate figures to advocate the need for Veterans to be able to continue their services without interruption. Council members are encouraged to communicate their concerns as well.

#### **V. Community Relations- S. Herrle**

- **Run for Recovery**

Ms. Herrle provided the Council again with information the annual Run for Recovery which will take place this year on Saturday, May 11<sup>th</sup>. Registration is open. Anyone who would like to participate, but are not interested in the races, are encouraged to volunteer.

- **Annual Awards Breakfast**

The Annual Awards Breakfast will be taking place this year on Friday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>. Council members are welcome to attend as guests of the Agency to watch the awards ceremony and see Brad Montgomery the keynote speaker.

- **Marine City Broadway Open House**

The Agency will host a "Grand Re-Opening" of the Broadway location on May 29<sup>th</sup> 2024. The exact time has not been decided upon, but once that is settled, an invitation will be sent out to all Advisory Council members.

**VI. Policy Review**

- 05-001-0030 Advance Directives
- 05-003-0040 Freedom of Movement

**VII. Old Business**

No Old Business was discussed at this meeting

**VIII. Council Round Table**

- Ms. Raymo updated the Council that the Governor's continuing push for universal preschool has resulted in even more school districts setting up GSRPs, with the hope of enrolling even more 4 year olds into the head start program.
- Mx. Fay provided the Council with a flyer promoting a fundraiser vender/craft show at the Fraternal Order of Eagles #3702, the proceeds of which will go towards raising awareness of human trafficking.
- Ms. Condlan discussed questions she had regarding a letter she had received from the Office of Recipient Rights. Conversation took place regarding the Rights investigatory process, and it was suggested that a staff member from Recipient Rights attend our next meeting to address further inquiries.
- Ms. Thompson questioned if the community offered any classes for parents looking for education regarding how to support a child who is displaying the beginnings of emotional or behavioral dysregulation, or for youths who are experiencing grief and loss. It was discovered that the Port Huron Public Library system offers such classes.
- Ms. Partipilo would like to revisit options to make electronic payments available for guardians of individuals in Group Homes. This was discussed at previous Advisory Council meetings, but no solutions were accepted at that time. It was decided that this can be brought to the attention of the Group Homes again, but ultimately the decision will lay with them.

**IX. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 12:55 PM by Nancy Thompson

**X. Next Meeting**

**Wednesday, May 15, 2024 from 12PM-1PM via Lifesize or in person**

Respectfully Submitted By:

Jami Strickler  
Recording Secretary

cc: Debra Johnson, Chief Executive Officer