

St. Clair County Community Mental Health Authority

Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 20, 2022

PRESENT:

Advisory Committee Members: Barbara Belkiewicz, Lisa Clark, Nancy Levitt, Mark Paulus, Cyndy Raymo, Nancy Thomson (Chairperson), and Amy Sanderson.

CMH Staff: Kathleen Gallagher (Program Director), Patricia Wenino (CMH Recording Secretary)

ABSENT: Deb Johnson (Chief Executive Officer), Advisory Committee Members: Larry Doherty, Lisa Murphy, Richard Parker, Martha Partipilo, Erin Rusch, Antoinette (Tosia) Tucker, Karen Zultak

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

Nancy Thomson called the meeting to order at 12:04 p.m.

Nancy introduced Patty Wenino as the new secretary.

II. REVIEW/ACCEPT MINUTES - Group

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

III. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE -D. Johnson

A. Deb Johnson was not in attendance therefore there was no Executive Director Update.

IV. CMH Updates

A. Run for Recovery 5/14/22

Kathleen stated that the Run for Recovery is May 14, 2022. There is still time to sign up and there is a need for volunteers if anyone is interested. This is the first time since COVID that the race will be live. During COVID the race was virtual.

B. Children's Crisis Residential

Kathleen reported at the last Advisory Council Meeting that she had talked to Senator Lauwers about introducing a bill so that CMH could use some seclusion and restraints with children at the children's crisis residential group home. Children are sometimes waiting 30 or more days in the ER for inpatient psychiatric evaluation. Senator Lauwers did introduce the bill. Heidi Fogarty and Kathleen were on a call with his aids last week and they requested more background and history of when CMH did have Children's crisis residential group homes. Kathleen stated we had 3 homes in the past. They wanted more clarification on the problems CMH had and why the children's residential group homes had to be closed. Kathleen explained that staff are not allowed to use any kind of restraint and therefore there was no way to keep the children safe. Also, there was no one

to manage the homes. Kathleen explained that right now the bill is at the department (MDHHS) for analysis. She stated we are hopeful that it will not take long to be approved because we currently have kids at the ER waiting. This has been at a crisis point and still is now. Kathleen stated she will keep everyone updated.

Nancy asked what will happen after the department reaches a decision. Kathleen explained that the department will either make a recommendation to Senator Lauwers that they agree with the entirety of the bill or that they only agree with parts of the bill and offer suggestions/corrections. We want the department's endorsement. Nancy asked if this was at the health department. Kathleen explained that it was the Department of Behavioral Health Services doing the analysis. She has had phone calls with them during each step of the process.

Kathleen mentioned that Hawthorn Center is our only children state facility and they are struggling to get psychiatric staff. They are working at approximately one third of its capacity due to staffing shortages. They are also pushing wraparound services, which is a multiple disciplinary team that includes staff from: CMH, schools, probation/law enforcement officers, DHHS and many other entities. They come together monthly with the family present to try to come up with solutions. This is happening as a result of a lawsuit around children's services across the state. Kathleen explained that referrals have increased in our county and we currently have two wraparound coordinators and have submitted to post for two more coordinators due to the increase in referrals. She stated it is a good service, but is not a residential option.

Nancy asked the process if the bill was pushed forward, would it then go to the senate or the house and how long the process will take. Kathleen explained that it would go through the senate and house for final approval. She explained that Senator Lauwers would ultimately like to have the bill through before summer recess, which is a lofty goal, but it depends on the initial analysis.

C. Council Membership

Kathleen stated that she reached out to Council members and there were 2 members that due to personal issues/commitments cannot continue as Advisory members. We have posted on Facebook and sent messages out to individuals we serve that we are looking for committee members. We have not gotten any response yet. For now we know for sure that we have two spots to fill. Nancy explained that due to Covid and reducing meetings to every other month this has resulted in loss of input and participation that is needed to give ideas on what more we can do. She explained that we are looking for people we serve and their parents to fill the board positions. They would like more people to act as Advisory Council than it is now and stated if anyone had someone to recommend, please reach out and have them contact Kathleen. Nancy stated that ultimately they would like to fill four to six spots rather than the two that were vacated.

D. Vine Street Updates

Vine Street group home in St. Clair was owned by IMPACT but due to lack of staffing they had to close it down. We are now turning it into a specialized AFC for our aging population. Innovative is taking that contract and has hired a supervisor for that facility

and in the process of hiring staff. It is a HUD home so people do have to fill out a HUD application to live there. They are in the licensing process and hope to have the license by the end of May in order to move forward.

V. CCBHC Updates – K. Zultak was not in attendance, given by K. Gallagher

A. Reapplying for the Grant

The 2 million dollar a year CCBHC grant that we receive expires at the end of the month. CMH will reapply for the next grant that will fund 1 million dollars a year by the end of next month. Cyndy Raymo asked if we spent all of the 2 million dollars from the grant. Kathleen responded that we didn't spend it all because we are carrying some of it forward for positions in schools. Cyndy asks if the fundamental purpose is to service individuals with private insurance and was CMH able to secure service for those individuals. Kathleen stated absolutely we will continue to secure services for individuals and we don't have a plan to stop that at this point, there may need to be reductions in services made. She meets with Karen Farr monthly to keep looking at the funding to make sure they can keep moving forward. Karen gives Nancy a monthly estimate for spending at the CMH Board meeting. Cyndy asked how many individuals are being provided services with the CCBHC funds and Kathleen informed her there are a few hundred and she can get her the exact number later. Some of the people with services provided through the CCBHC funds are only getting it for enhanced services and not full services with us. Veterans have authorizations from the VA fund to get their services enhanced with us. Cyndy asked if we have been able to reach out to the families of kids that could not receive our services previously because they have private insurance. Kathleen responded they have been in contact with those families. The Children's unit and the adult Outpatient unit are the programs seeing the most of the CCBHC funds coming though. Kathleen stated that they had a meeting with RESA to discuss what their funds could cover as well. Cyndy asked if state services like the CCBHC pilot program are still going will there be some funding for private insurance. Kathleen stated they are still going forward and are good for two years. The demonstration project gives us an enhanced rate for people with Medicaid who need a higher level of service such as mild-moderate population. Cyndy asked if there was talk of renewing the two million dollar federal grant. Kathleen stated there is no talk of it at this time. In July MDHHS will send out Medicaid application papers for eligibility because there weren't any kickoffs due to COVID. They strongly recommend reminding recipients to keep an eye on their mail for these papers.

Kathleen informed the council that she and Deb Johnson went to a RESA meeting yesterday. Brenda Tenniswood led the meeting along with Deena Tuczyk. In attendance at this meeting was: Superintendents of Port Huron and Marysville schools, DHHS, Sherriff, Judge Brown, Prosecuting Attorney Mike Wendling and Nate Russell from Juvenile Court. Some of the meeting was in response to the Oxford shooting and how we can come together as a team to identify teens with mental health issues. A lot of the kids are known to us, but there are still the quiet group we need to reach out to. They plan on reconvening to discuss this more. Judge Brown would like to develop a plan. They are planning a county wide response to the mental health crisis. We need to look at how all districts assess people overall.

Lisa Clark stated that she talked to her DHHS adult consumers who said they were struggling and she asked if they had contacted CMH about getting back into services and they said no because they were told they couldn't come back. She gave them the phone number to call. These were people who previously were discharged due to their high deductible and lack of GF Funding

VI. Policy Review

No policies to review at this time.

VII. Council Round Table

- Nancy Thomson informed everyone that Region 10 and new Access center should be complete and they should be moving out of Electric Ave building by the end of September.
- Nancy Thomson encouraged everyone to join the Run for Recovery.
- Nancy Levitt spoke of a special needs boy that she mentors and the issues with sending children without support for the child and the parents.

VIII. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 12:47 pm.

IX. Next Meeting

Wednesday, May 18, 2022 from 12PM-1PM via Lifesize

Reviewed and Approved By:

Respectfully Submitted By:

Kathleen Gallagher
Program Director

Patty Wenino
Recording Secretary

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