

*St. Clair County Community Mental Health Authority*  
**Advisory Council Meeting Minutes**  
Wednesday, May 18, 2022

**PRESENT:**

**Advisory Committee Members:** Lisa Clark, Nancy Levitt, Mark Paulus, Cyndy Raymo, and Amy Sanderson, Antoinett (Tosia) Tucker

**CMH Staff:** Debra Johnson (Chief Executive Officer), Kathleen Gallagher (Program Director), Kaeley Hux (CMH Recording Secretary), Jami Strickler (CMH Recording Secretary)

**ABSENT:** Barbra Belkiewicz, Lawrence Doherty, Martha Partipilo, Nancy Thompson (Chairperson)

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**I. CALL TO ORDER/AGENDA CHANGES –D. Johnson**

Chief Executive Officer Debra Johnson called the meeting to order at 12:04 p.m.

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

The Advisory Council members accepted the minutes from April 20, 2022, as presented.

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

**A. Mask Mandate**

Due to increasing numbers of Covid 19 in our county including many of CMH staff members, the Agency will be re-implementing the mask mandate within the building for both staff and individuals starting Monday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>. Similar actions have been taken in other facilities around the state.

**B. Annual Report**

The Annual Report is now available for review in its new format, as well as on the Agency website. The Creative Arts Contest winners are exhibited in addition to Agency updates. Hard copies were available for in person Council attendants who were interested.

**C. Reception Area**

The Electric Avenue office reception area has undergone many new changes in an effort to streamline the process of checking in and out for appointments, as well as to offer increased privacy to the individuals served. Changes include a new welcome kiosk just inside the front door and seated, partitioned check in areas. This layout is reflective of that of comparable health care providers.

**D. CCBHC**

Ms. Johnson explained that the 2 million dollar per year grant has ended, however as of Monday the Agency has submitted its request to receive the decreased 1 million dollar grant in its place. Decisions regarding that grant are expected in the coming month.

There was discussion regarding what the funds had been used for, as well as what programs and services may be affected with the decreased amount. Ms. Gallagher clarified that in particular the CCBHC Grant had allowed the Agency to increase its services to persons with severe mental illness, substance use disorder and/or severe emotional disturbance. In addition CMH has seen a tremendous increase in the incoming individuals with a mild to moderate mental health diagnosis. The Agency had increased the size of its staff by about 47% in the last 2 years to accommodate the increased amount of individuals opening to services with funding from the CCBHC. Despite the increase in hiring, there is still a very large need for more Clinicians. As of yesterday the Union has approved posting positions for Clinicians who can work up to 20 hours a week in a 100% virtual setting via the Lifesize platform. The Agency is correspondingly looking to hire more psychiatric prescribers to increase the psychiatric capacity. There was discussion regarding the benefits of virtual appointments serving individuals who may be struggling with leaving home due to Covid or other issues.

#### **IV. CMH Updates**

##### **A. OFS Updates**

Ms. Gallagher stated that after a slow start due to Covid, the Opportunities for Support program, which offers employment services to individuals with developmental and/or intellectual disabilities, has successfully assisted 6 individuals with finding stable, long term employment in the last year. Referrals are encouraged for both the OFS (Opportunities for Support) and IPS (Individual Placement and Support) programs. A fidelity report is coming up in June to assess the programs.

##### **B. CIS Updates**

Ms. Gallagher reported that during the period of time the Agency was able to relax the masking practices, the CIS program was able to increase the amount of individuals participating in Program. Unfortunately with the upcoming week seeing the mask requirements returning, this will affect the attendance of some individuals who are not able to tolerate wearing them. The Program will continue to make changes as necessary to best serve all individuals.

##### **C. Vine Street Update**

Ms. Gallagher stated the newly retained specialized adult foster care is on target to open at the end of the month as they await licensing approval. There will be 6 beds available at this facility to start.

##### **D. BWDH Director Update**

Blue Water Developmental Housing director Kathy Swantek is retiring after a long and successful career and will be replaced by Lisa Beedon, who has already attended the latest Board meeting.

#### **V. CCBHC Updates –K. Gallagher**

##### **A. Reapplying for the Grant**

Ms. Gallagher revisited the points previously covered by Ms. Johnson, stating the

2 million dollar a year grant expired this month, and we are awaiting the determination regarding our application for the reduced 1 million dollar a year grant. The Agency continues to discuss ways of continuing to offer services and programs with this reduction in funds.

**VI. Policy Review**

No policies to review at this time.

**VII. Council Round Table**

- Nancy Levitt had comments regarding the requested call for interest Advisory Council. She questioned whether it could be appropriate to request participants from stakeholder agencies, as in the past there was more volunteers than there was room for in the Council. Other representation needs were discussed including for SUD and Children's. Ms. Gallagher to follow up on some of the different avenues were conferred. During this course of conversation Ms. Gallagher disclosed that Richard Parker and Erin Rusch have elected to step down from their roles in the Advisory Council.

**VIII. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 12:35 pm by Deb Johnson.

**IX. Next Meeting**

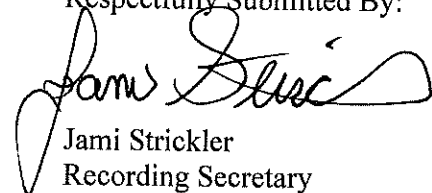
**Wednesday, June 15, 2022 from 12PM-1PM via Lifesize or in person**

Reviewed and Approved By:



Kathleen Gallagher  
Program Director

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