

St. Clair County Community Mental Health Authority

Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, June 15, 2022

PRESENT:

Advisory Committee Members: Nancy Thompson (Chairperson), Lisa Clark, Martha Partipilo, Nancy Levitt, Mark Paulus, Cynthia Raymo, Antoinett (Tosia) Tucker

CMH Staff: Kathleen Gallagher (Program Director), Jami Strickler (CMH Recording Secretary)

ABSENT: Barbra Belkiewicz, Lawrence Doherty, Amy Sanderson

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

Council Chairperson Nancy Thompson called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m.

II. REVIEW/ACCEPT MINUTES - Group

The Advisory Council members accepted the minutes from May 15, 2022, as presented.

III. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE –K. Gallagher

A. Call to Action

Ms. Gallagher discussed the provided information regarding Senator Shirkey's suspected push to get Senate Bills 597 & 598 to the Senate floor. These bills move to privatized all Medicaid mental health services, and would give for-profit insurance companies financial control and oversight.

B. Marine City Office

The updating of the new Marine City Office continues to progress and the goal remains to open sometime this fall. The issue regarding the building furniture has been resolved, and the Agency will be compensated for the items that were taken, which were meant to be left per the purchase agreement.

C. Electric Avenue Office

Electric Avenue is working with consulting company NBS with the goal of implementing a new layout that will better accommodate the growing Staff. The existing space will need to be adjusted as Region 10 has hit a delay in preparing their new location, and their exit from the Electric Avenue building will likely not be until December.

IV. CMH Updates- K. Gallagher

A. Changes in Autism Assessment

Ms. Gallagher explained to Council the recent changes assessments for Autism eligibility. The ADOS assessment will now be lifted as a required assessment, and will

be replaced with a new one. It is expected that there will be some bumps in the road as this new process is adjusted to.

B. Vine Street Update

Ms. Gallagher reported that Vine Street home is still awaiting licensing approval. Innovative is prepared to staff it upon endorsement, and there are currently 6 individuals ready to move in.

C. Jail Update

Ms. Gallagher advised Council that there is currently an 18 month contract (ending September 15, 2022) with the Jail for CMH to provide Clinical workers as well as Psychiatric prescribers to inmates. The goal in this is to provide a smooth transition from jail to CMH services upon release. Currently, due to a prescriber shortage within the Agency, we are not currently able to provide psychiatric care. There was discussion regarding past CMH involvement with the Jail, as well as the current services provided and the goal for future services.

V. CCBHC Updates –K. Gallagher

A. Reapplying for the Grant

Ms. Gallagher explained that the 2 million dollar per year SAMHSA grant has ended. The Agency has submitted its request to receive the decreased 1 million dollar grant in its place. Decisions regarding that grant are expected sometime this month. The Agency continues to be in the state CCBHC demonstration project.

VI. Policy Review

No policies to review at this time.

VII. Council Round Table

- Nancy Levitt requested more information on the Call for Action flyer regarding Senate Bills 597 & 598. Per Kathleen- Should the bills pass, this would become a large issue for CMH and drastically affect which services we offer and which Individuals would be eligible for them. The privatization of mental healthcare has been a concern for many years, and it is expected to continue to be so. It is important to get the word out to the Individuals we serve as well as their families so that they might choose to voice their opinions to our Lawmakers.
- Martha Partipilo would like suggestions for improving communication for the families of persons in Group Homes regarding the daily or weekly schedules as well as possible programs that would allow some access to medical records such as vaccination status as progress notes. CMH IT Director Dann Hayes is currently looking for programs that would assist in this. There was discussion regarding what can be done in the meantime to streamline communications including the possibility of using the CMH Website.
- Nancy Thompson Requesting an update on the progress of recruiting new members to the Advisory Council. No applications have been submitted. It was suggested that a letter be drafted to send to guardians of Individuals in Group Homes as well as other

specific departments within the Agency. Proposals of personal invitations from Kathleen with contact information and offers to sit in on meetings before committing to the Council. The importance of representation was discussed.

- The recent passing of Committee member Richard Parker was discussed. He is fondly remembered amongst the Council.

VIII. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 12:40 pm by Chairperson Nancy Thompson

IX. Next Meeting

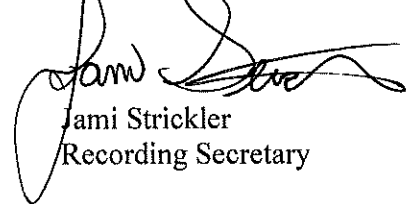
Wednesday, July 20, 2022 from 12PM-1PM via Lifesize or in person

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