

St. Clair County Community Mental Health Authority

Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, August 16, 2023

PRESENT:

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

CMH Staff: Kathleen Gallagher (Program Director), Sarah Herrle (Community Relations Representative), Denise Choiniere (QIDM Representative) Jami Strickler (CMH Recording Secretary), Gloria Valentin (CMH Recording Secretary)

ABSENT: Lisa Clark, Ruth Thick, Amy Sanderson, Nancy Levitt

I. Call to Order/Agenda Changes –N. Thomson

Ms. Nancy Thomson, Advisory Council Chairperson called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

II. Review/Accept Meeting Minutes - Group

The Advisory Council members accepted the minutes from July 19, 2023 as presented.

III. Executive Director Updates – D. Johnson

- **New Committee Member**

Ms. Johnson welcomed new committee member Harold Powell to the Advisory Council. Mr. Powell is an active member of the community and will bring a unique perspective on public issues given his background, community involvement and work in local media. The Advisory Council welcomes him and looks forward to his contribution.

- **Talk Space Update**

The Agency continues to offer services to area residents through Talkspace. Talkspace is an online therapy website and app that connects individuals to licensed therapists. Online therapy sites like these make receiving mental health services more accessible, and is a way of addressing the shortage of mental health providers across the State. The Agency is requesting help getting word out regarding the availability of Talkspace, as currently there is an abundance of unused enrollment. This is a great option for people who may need help determining if therapy is for them.

- **Celebration of Recovery Awards**

The Celebration of Recovery Awards is an annual event where the Agency recognizes individuals served with their progress in their recovery journey. Council members are invited, and encouraged to attend. This year's Awards take place on October 3rd from 4-5:00pm in the Electric Ave office auditorium

IV. CMH Updates- K. Gallagher

- **McLaren Port Huron**

Ms. Gallagher updated the Council on the recent resignation of a psychiatrist at the McLaren Port Huron hospital. This will result in a significant loss in psychiatric beds available to the local area. The community should prepare for a long stretch of reduced availability of emergency mental health care. Ms. Gallagher plans to follow up on the possibility of the Agency providing the hospital with the use of its currently staffed psychiatric prescribers until their vacancy can be filled.

- **CCBHC Interview**

The Agency participated in an interview this week with a group contracted with the State to gauge our involvement as a continued demonstration sight for the CCBHC. Questions reflected how the CCBHC has impacted our community, and what the Agency's process was in starting the program. A stumbling block the Agency took care to highlight in the interview was the complexity of billing for privately insured Individuals, and the hope is that this will reflect in easier processes in the future.

V. Community Relations- S. Herrle

- **Recovery Summit**

Ms. Herrle provided a hand out to Council members highlighting the Recovery Summit. This will be the Agency's third year hosting this event, which will be providing 20+ webinars, which include continuing education credits, and focus on the hope and journey of Recovery from addiction.

- **Community Events**

Additional events the Agency have participated or will be participating in include:

- Victory Day at Port Huron High School- August 11th
- YMCA Event Sponsored by WIC- August 14th
- BROCK Recovery Soft Ball game August 18th
- Unity in the Community- August 19th
- Harbor Impact Day- August 29th

VI. Policy Review

Copies of Advisory Council Policies up for review were provided to Council Members. Feedback is requested by September 5, 2023 and can be provided to Jami Strickler, Advisory Council Recording Secretary.

- 01-001-0035 - Inclusion of Persons Served
- 05-001-0005 - Recipient Rights
- 05-001-0050 - Appeals of Recipient Rights Complaint Findings and Dispute Resolution

VII. Old Business

There was no Old Business discussed at this month's meeting.

VIII. Council Round Table

- Ms. Raymo provided the Council with information regarding MI Tri-Share Child Care, which is designed to improve community access to affordable child care by sharing the cost between the employee, the employer and the state of Michigan. Discussion was held regarding participating employers, who was eligible for this service and how this program benefits the overall economy by removing this barrier to employment.
- Ms. Partipilo updated members on her continued push for establishing electronic payment options for families/caretakers of individuals residing in Group Homes. She welcomes any help or suggestions in this matter.
- Mr. Powell shared that he wrote a story on the MI Tri-Share Child Care and it was published on WGRT Radio website and Facebook in an effort to spread the word on the program.
- Ms. Fay communicated the availability of Narcan training thru each location of the Odyssey Houses. More information and upcoming dates can be found on their website and Facebook.

IX. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 12:42 PM by Nancy Thomson

X. Next Meeting

Wednesday, September 20, 2023 from 12PM-1PM via Lifesize or in person

Respectfully Submitted By:

Jami Strickler
Recording Secretary

cc: Debra Johnson, Chief Executive Officer

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