

*St. Clair County Community Mental Health Authority*

**Advisory Council Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021

**PRESENT:** Advisory Committee Members: Lisa Clark, Nancy Levitt, Mark Paulus, Martha Partipilo, Cyndy Raymo, Nancy Thomson (Chairperson), and Antoinette (Tosia) Tucker.

CMH Staff: Debra Johnson (Executive Director), Kathleen Gallagher (Program Director) and Kaeley Hux (CMH Recording Secretary).

**ABSENT:** Advisory Committee Members: Barbara Belkiewicz, Larry Doherty, Cheryl LaFrance, Lisa Murphy, Richard Parker, Erin Rusch, and Amy Sanderson.

CMH Staff: Karen Zultak (Program Supervisor).

**GUESTS:** Denise Choiniere (CMH)

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

Chairperson Nancy Thomson called the meeting to order at 12:03 P.M.

**II. REVIEW/ACCEPT MINUTES – Group**

The Advisory Council members accepted the previous month's minutes with no changes noted.

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

**A. Modern Healthcare: Best Places to Work Results**

St. Clair County Community Mental Health has been selected as one of the top 150 places to work in modern healthcare in the U.S. The top winners will be announced on 9/16/2021.

**B. Legislative Listening Session Follow Up**

On September 14, 2021 the first senate hearing was held in regard to Representative Shirkey's 597 and 598 Financial Integration bills. Any future action alerts will be provided to the council. If anyone is interested in testifying, please contact Deb Johnson or Tracy Goyette.

There was discussion in regard to Governor Whitmer's press release where she brought attention to the \$1.4 billion coming to the State for My Healthy Communities. Governor Whitmer is calling for an additional \$335 million in funding to increase the capacity for community based behavioral health and substance use treatment. The goal is to improve access for those with autism as well as residential and community based services for children.

**IV. CMH UPDATES – K. Gallagher**

**A. Program Update -- Community Enterprises, Bright Futures, Goodwill, CIS**

Community Enterprises is social distancing and enforcing mask wearing. Unfortunately, they are experiencing a staffing shortage as well as transportation issues. Bright Futures is also experiencing a staffing shortage. Goodwill has resumed regular operations.

**B. Transportation Update – CMH & BWAT**

Busses and vans are able to operate at full capacity; however, all persons on board will need to wear a mask.

**C. Direct Care Worker Wage Advocacy**

Representative Eisen and Senator Lauwers met with SCCCMH and contract agencies in regard to the direct care worker wage advocacy. There was discussion of a flat rate of \$18.00 per hour for all direct care staff. Advocacy efforts are ongoing.

**D. Crisis Residential for Children Advocacy Efforts**

The State of Michigan does not have adequate capacity for children's residential services. Due to licensing rules, it had become difficult for direct care staff to provide safe care. Those that are able to wait for placement in a facility are faced with the debacle of not being able to leave to secure a bed. At times, parents must wait for days with their child to secure placement, virtually having to neglect other responsibilities such as additional children and/or their careers. Letters of advocacy are strongly encouraged.

There was discussion in regard to redirecting advocacy letters to Governor Whitmer.

**E. Staff Recruitment Efforts**

Staff recruitment efforts include but are not limited to radio advertising, sign-on bonuses, staff incentive for referrals, free continued education credits and participating in job fairs. The Agency's marketing team has distributed a mailing to all LMSWs in the state of Michigan as well.

**F. Eviction Information**

There has been a handout provided to the council.

**G. Customer Satisfaction Survey (D. Choiniere)**

The annual customer satisfaction surveys were distributed during the first week of August 2021. A total of 2,422 surveys were mailed to individuals served, guardians, and family members. Of that total, only 399 were completed and returned. Denise noted that this is the lowest response rate ever received at just 16%. For the year prior, the Agency received a response rate of 23%. There is an overall satisfaction rate of 95%. The children's division has a recorded overall satisfaction of 92% while the adult division is at 95%. Both percentages are consistent with last year's findings. A handout with all recorded data has been provided to the council.

*Please note: Any survey submitted that requires follow-up is forwarded to Kathleen Gallagher to contact the individual who submitted the survey. Content regarding follow-up can be either positive or negative.*

**H. Quality Improvement Update (D. Choiniere)**

At the beginning of each fiscal year, the Quality Improvement Data Management department issues a Quality Improvement Plan report highlighting data from

There was discussion in regard to restoring the NAMI chapter for our community. Deb Johnson will be presenting at NAMI's October 2021 meeting.

**V. CCBHC UPDATE – K. Gallagher**

**A. Run for Recovery**

Run for Recovery needs you! Walkers, runners, and volunteers are needed for this year's event. See the flyer provided to the council for more details.

**B. Blue Water Race Series 2021 Line Up**

See flyer provided to council.

**C. Men's Health Series – Session Three**

Mike McCartan will present on Thursday September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021 from 6:00 PM- 8:00 PM. See flyer provided to council for more details.

**VI. POLICY REVIEW – Group**

No policies to review at this time.

**VII. COUNCIL ROUNDTABLE – Group**

Martha Partipilo expressed her disappointment in the 51% increase in teen suicides among this pandemic.

Tosia Tucker inquired about the relocation of the People's Clinic. No updates at this time.

Nancy Thomson acknowledged the parking lot construction efforts at the Children and Family Services building. The project is anticipated to be complete by the end of October 2021.

Empty Bowl tickets are \$25 and can be purchased from Bethany Murdick.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT – N. Thomson**

Chairperson Thomson adjourned the meeting at 12:49 PM.

**IX. NEXT MEETING: Wednesday November, 17<sup>th</sup> 2021 from 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM via Lifesize. Subject to change.**

Reviewed and Approved By:



Kathleen Gallagher  
Program Director

Respectfully Submitted By:



Kaeley Hux  
Recording Secretary

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