

St. Clair County Community Mental Health Authority

Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 17, 2024

PRESENT:

Advisory Committee Members: Nora Condland, Martha Partipilo, Harold Powell, Cynthia Raymo, Nancy Thompson

CMH Staff: Debra Johnson (Chief Executive Officer), Kathleen Gallagher (Program Director), Aubree Mayhew (Community Relations Representative), Gloria Valentin (CMH Recording Secretary)

ABSENT: Lisa Clark, Ruth Thick, Alesha Fay, Amy Sanderson

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

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

II. Review/Accept Meeting Minutes - Group

The Advisory Council members accepted the minutes from December 20, 2023 with a minor correction to lease regarding the SONS has not been signed as of yet, and instead it is still being worked on.

III. Executive Director Updates – D. Johnson

- **DARCA**

Ms. Johnson provided the Council with information on the St. Clair County Dementia & Alzheimer's Association's upcoming Annual 5k Walk/Run for awareness and June Luncheon. Additionally, nominations are being accepted for the Marcia Haynes Community Advocate and Organization Advocate of the year. This award highlights entities and individuals who have gone above and beyond to support awareness for this important cause.

- **Walk for Warmth**

The 34th Annual Walk for Warm is a fundraiser promoted by the Community Action Agency. The proceeds of this event go towards local residents who cannot afford their utility bills.

- **Point in Time (PIT)**

Ms. Johnson explained that the Point in Time count is done annually in January, and seeks to identify the amount of individuals experiencing homelessness in the community. Surveys are conducted throughout all of St. Clair County at shelters, senior centers, food pantries etc., and the information acquired are reported to the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Volunteers are needed, and can

be referred to Ms. Amy Smith here at the Agency or to HARA@bwcaa.org.

- **Port Huron Prowlers- Mental Health Awareness Night**
The Agency will be working collaboratively with the Port Huron Prowlers to host a Mental Health Awareness Night at one of the local games taking place on March 15th 2024. CMH will have a table with information of Agency programs and the Blue Water NAMI.
- **The ARC of St. Clair County**
The ARC will be hosting its 2nd Annual “Show the Love” dinner and dance on Thursday, February 8th. They are currently looking for donations of items for their silent auction. Tickets can be purchased online at TheArcSCC.org or via phone at (810) 989-9144.

IV. CMH Updates- K. Gallagher

- **Children’s Residential Legislation**
Senate Bill 227 is expected to pass the House again this week, and it is anticipated that the Senate will expedite the process once it comes to them. The Agency continues its search for a Children’s Crisis Residential home, and finding the best evidence based practice for running it. It is expected this process will take a significant amount of time.
- **NAMI Peer to Peer**
The Agency currently employ two Peer Support Specialists who have been trained in NAMI Peer to Peer, and they will be starting that group in January. That group is free to anyone who would like to attend. More information can be found on the CMH website.
- **Broadway Building**
The Broadway building in Marine City has begun renovations with the goal to reopen for services to local residents who are unable to find transportation to the King Road location. Additionally the building will offer many classes such as Music and Cooking. The current projection is for the Grand Re-Opening to occur towards the end of February.
- **Donations- Music and Veterans**
Recently the Agency received a generous anonymous donation of funds to our Music Group and Veterans Navigator Program. Mr. Doug Miller, the facilitator of Music and Minds has begun shopping for new items for expanding the Group to our Marine City and Capac locations. Ms. Wendy Martindale, the Veteran’s Navigator has similar plans to use the funds to expand out reaches to our satellite offices.

- **Clubhouse/Galley**

The Clubhouse is in the process of hiring staff to support the cooking program slated to start in the Galley, with the hope of opening that next month.

V. Community Relations- S. Herrle

- **Traveling Art Show**

Ms. Herrle explained that the Agency is currently working on collecting art exhibits from the individuals we serve to be displayed during the Traveling Art Show. Exhibits will be combined with those collected from other Community Mental Health Agencies throughout Michigan, and displayed on a 2 year cycle at participating host locations. Pieces will be up for sale, and give individuals the opportunity to have their work seen by many people.

- **Creative Arts Contest**

The deadline for the 2024 Creative Arts Contest has been extended due to several snow days within the school district. This will allow students more time to submit their work. This includes the High School art contest, the Middle School writing contest, as well as the Elementary School book mark contest.

- **Run for Recovery**

The Agency's annual Run for Recovery will take place this year on Saturday, May 11th, and includes a 1 Mile Walk, a 1 Mile Kids Race and a 5k Run/Walk. Registration is open, and anyone who would like to participate, but are not interested in the races, are encouraged to volunteer.

VI. Policy Review

There were no policies up for review this month.

VII. Old Business

- **Simplifying Access to Information- N. Condlan**

Ms. Condlan provided an update to her continued struggle in uncovering information for persons new to the Guardianship process. Specifically retention of documents, records and the difference between what is needed for children vs adults. Ms. Raymo offered some direction regarding school records, but more information is still needed. Ms. Gallagher to look into this further, as this would be beneficial information for many of the guardians for the individuals served at CMH.

VIII. Council Round Table

- Ms. Condlan initiated a conversation regarding how efficiently community information is passed around to the local areas. Discussion included the importance of using both technological outreaches such as websites, texting etc., as well as less techy strategies such as mailers, periodicals, word of mouth and local advertisements.

- Ms. Raymo polled the Council on how many members have received the annual Family Fun guide that is released each summer. She suggests that this being both an electronic and paper periodical, it has become a project with a very long reach, and she would like to see something similar done throughout the year for the community, to keep residents advised of ongoing activities and resources in the area.

IX. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 12:55 PM by Nancy Thompson

X. Next Meeting

Wednesday, February 21, 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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