

St. Clair County Community Mental Health Authority

Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 15, 2024

PRESENT:

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

CMH Staff: Debra Johnson (Chief Executive Officer), Kathleen Gallagher Chief Clinical Officer), Sarah Herrle (Community Relations Representative), Jami Strickler (CMH Recording Secretary)

ABSENT: Ruth Thick, Amy Sanderson, Alesha Fay

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

Ms. Nancy Thompson, Advisory Council Chairperson called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m.

II. Review/Accept Meeting Minutes - Group

The Advisory Council members accepted the minutes from April 17, 2024 as presented.

III. Welcome New Member – Group

Advisory Council welcomes its newest member, Rosella Mirabelli, who had attended her first meeting. Ms. Mirabelli is also a member of the SCCCMHA Board, and an active community advocate for mental health awareness and accessibility.

IV. Office of Recipient Rights – S. O’Neill

Ms. O’Neill gave the council a brief description of the Office of Recipient Rights, what the program does, who they serve and how complaints and investigations are handled within. Members were updated that a new form was added to complaint letters which bring more context to letters when they are received, which resulted from feedback given at the last Advisory Council meeting. Ms. O’Neill addressed questions and concerns concerning when and how Individuals personal rights may be respected in a way that their health and safety, as well as the health and safety of those around them are honored.

V. Executive Director Updates – D. Johnson

- **Organizational Structure Updates**

Ms. Johnson informed the Council of updates the Agency has made to its organizational structure in response to the tremendous growth experienced in the past years. A particular address was that of a Chief Clinical Officer, a position which was offered to, and accepted by Kathleen Gallagher. This new role will help to address the need for a Clinical Mentor within the Agency. Additionally, Ms. Gallagher will work directly with the Medical Director, Dr. Brandon Moore to

better attend the clinical needs of the individuals receiving services at this Agency. Additionally it was decided that, due to the Agency's tremendous growth in persons served, Ms. Gallagher's previous role of Program Director would be split by Heidi Fogarty, who will oversee the Children's Division, and Kristen Thompson and Jason Marroco, who will share adult services. A High Level Organizational chart was provided to Council members with the updated changes.

- **Senate Bill 227**

The Senate bill has again, gone through both of the State houses and now awaits the Governor's signature. It is expected for this to happen soon, and the Agency is prepared to move forwards in its goal of opening up a Children's Crisis Residential home in the area. Heidi Fogarty remains the lead on this project.

VI. CMH Updates- K. Gallagher

- **Supported Employment**

The Agency recognized the importance of maintaining its Clinical staff, and is looking in to ways to support them, to reduce burn out and decrease workloads. Training in evidence based practices, and updating and backing-up required processes and growing staff to address the increase populations served and seen are at the forefront of the Agency goals.

- **CEO Program**

Community Empowerment Program is located at the most southern part of the county and is a day program for Individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities, and has taken many of the people who lost services from Community Enterprises when they elected to close their Marine City location. It has been well received from local individuals.

- **Gardening Group**

Advisory Council members are encouraged to look around the building to appreciate the improvements the Agency's new Gardening Group have contributed to the outside. This is an opportunity for Individuals to learn about healthy eating in addition to gardening and mindfulness. Any interested Individual who receives services is eligible to sign up for this class.

- **ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act)**

The Agency has requested American Rescue Care Act funding to be approved for a mobile unit to be able to be dispatched to outlying areas to assist Individuals who may not have access to transportation to services. It is not known when or if this may be appropriated.

VII. Community Relations- S. Herrle

- **Run for Recovery**

Ms. Herrle provided the Council with information regarding the success of the 16th Annual Run for Recovery. This year saw 453 registered participants, which marked the highest turn out for many years. Pictures from the event can be viewed on the

Agency's Facebook page. Links are also available there which will take a interested person to the Run results and awards.

- **Annual Awards Breakfast**

The Annual Awards Breakfast will be taking place this year on Friday, May 22nd. Council members are welcome to attend as guests of the Agency to watch the awards ceremony and see Brad Montgomery the keynote speaker.

- **Marine City Broadway Open House**

The Agency will host a "Grand Re-Opening" of the Broadway location on May 29th from 5:30-6:30pm. Council members are encouraged to attend to meet the staff and tour the building where many updates have been made. Light refreshments will be offered.

VIII. Policy Review

There were no Policies up for review this month

IX. Old Business

No Old Business was discussed at this meeting

X. Council Round Table

- Ms. Partipilo reiterated her desire that Group Homes address the need for electronic payment options for their residents.
- Ms. Condlan

XI. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 12:54 PM by Nancy Thompson

XII. Next Meeting

Wednesday, July 17, 2024 from 12PM-1PM via Lifesize or in person

Respectfully Submitted By:

Jami Strickler
Recording Secretary

cc: Debra Johnson, Chief Executive Officer