

St. Clair County Community Mental Health Authority
Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 25, 2019

PRESENT: Advisory Committee Members: Lisa Clark, Larry Doherty, Richard Parker, Martha Partipilo, Mark Paulus, Cyndy Raymo and Antoinette (Tosia) Tucker

CMH Staff: Kathleen Gallagher (Program Director) and Dawn Shell (CMH Recording Secretary)

ABSENT: Advisory Committee Members: Cheryl LaFrance, Alice Rieves, Edward Rieves, Nancy Levitt, Amy Sanderson, and Nancy Thomson (Chairperson)

CMH Staff: None

GUESTS: CMH Staff: Lori Gauthier (Executive Secretary)

I. CALL TO ORDER/AGENDA CHANGES – K. Gallagher

Kathleen called the meeting to order at 12:01 p.m. There were no changes noted.

II. REVIEW/ACCEPT MINUTES – Group

The Advisory Council members accepted the previous month's minutes with no changes noted. Richard Parker made a motion to accept the minutes and Lisa Clark seconded the motion.

III. LAPTOPS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS – L. Gauthier

Lori Gauthier presented to the Advisory Council the ease of using iPads/laptops in accessing materials for review for Advisory Council Meetings. In moving to the use of iPads, packets of materials would no longer be made available unless a Council member states that they do not wish to use an iPad; all other members will receive only a copy of the agenda at the meeting. Council members will receive notification of when the materials have been posted to the website prior to the meeting via e-mail for review. Should the Advisory Council decide to move in this direction, written instructions would be provided as well as additional training on the use of the iPad.

IV. CMH UPDATES – K. Gallagher

A. Recovery Court

We are planning to run Recovery Court. A probation officer and a CMH Clinician will participate in that. The grant has not been approved yet. It will be like Mental Health Court but goes along with SUD services. Alexis Hadwin (formerly at our jail program) will be the clinician working with this program. The idea is to divert individuals from the legal system.

Corizon is the new provider at the jail. They can do a plea bargain to avoid longer sentencing. Judge Monaghan will be the Recovery Court judge. People will come in weekly and they will be asked questions such as, "Are you working? Are you following through with what you should be doing?" Richard Parker asked if the workforce is willing to work with this. Kathleen replied, "SMP is working with some of these individuals right now through the Center of Port Huron." Lisa Clark has a list of companies that will hire people with a felony. We plan to be up and running by January 1st but this will depend on the governor's budget.

B. Jail

Corizon is the new provider at the jail. They have not hired any clinicians yet. Corizon has a drug formulary that is fairly strict. We are working with them. They are utilizing people from their other facilities on a temporary basis. Their assumption was that they would be hiring our staff. Our staff did not accept the job offers. All positions are still posted on their website.

C. Spravato

There was a letter sent out by Deb and Dr. Saeed that pushed Medicaid to approve Spravato, which is used to treat people with extreme depression that has not responded to other antidepressant drugs. We are just waiting on Medicaid approval. We had one person who was approved but has not used it yet.

D. Children's Services Building Open House (11/13/19)

Children's Services is going to have an Open House at their new building on 24th Street on November 13th from 3:30 – 6:00 PM. We are hoping to get occupancy by October 1st. Our ABA program is currently located at Baker College. They will be moved over there later. They are still doing construction in the ABA area of the building.

E. Agency Announcements

Mental Illness Awareness Week is October 6-12. On Tuesday, October 8th, we have the Celebration of Recovery awards taking place in our auditorium from 3:30-4:30 PM. This is an annual event to recognize the accomplishments of people supported by SCCCMH and for their commitment to the recovery journey.

On Wednesday, October 9th there will be a screening of the movie, "Coming up for Air" at the Krafft 8 theatre from 5:00-8:45 PM. This event includes a preview discussion on the impact of mental illness in families followed by a screening of the feature film. Tickets are \$5.00, which includes the price of the movie, popcorn and a pop. Please contact Jill Vandenabeele for tickets to this event at (810) 966-3539.

On Thursday, October 10th in honor of "National Depression Screening Day", staff from McLaren Port Huron and SCCCMH staff will be on hand to conduct free screenings from 9:00 – 5:00 PM at St. Clair County Community College.

V. CMHA UPDATES – K. Gallagher

A. Call to Action – Section 298

Kathleen informed Advisory Council members the budget still contains language regarding Section 298, which would give Medicaid Health Plans the advantage of offering mental health services at a lesser cost than community mental health services. Medicaid Health Plans (MHP's) would struggle to provide the types of services we currently provide. The budget is currently at the governor's office waiting on her signature. There is a link available on our website that will allow you to send a letter to the governor in support of keeping mental health services with community mental health and not Medicaid Health Plans.

If we privatize, our system is not set up to accommodate this. Our concern is it would collapse our public health system. There is a shortage of inpatient hospital beds right now. Most hospitals are privately owned and often state, "because of their acuity we cannot serve them." Tosia noted, "The old section three west of McLaren Port Huron Hospital is old and dilapidated, especially in comparison to all of the updates they have recently done there." Richard suggested, "Another problem is they are trying to get the correct people to do these jobs." Tosia mentioned that we already know there has been a shortage of psychiatrists. Kathleen noted, "McLaren Port Huron is in need of more

psychiatric capacity to add beds in their inpatient unit.” Martha Partipilo suggested if universities could provide an incentive for students to enter the field of psychiatry this would help the problem of future shortages. Kathleen informed advisory council members CMH just had a nurse pass the test to become a psychiatric nurse practitioner and she will be providing psychiatric services to individuals we serve. CMH did provide some tuition reimbursement for her. Cyndy stated that she recently had a telepsychiatry appointment for her grandchildren and found “it was a very good experience.”

VI. COUNCIL ROUND TABLE - Group

Cyndy said she recently heard Medicaid issued a sanction on any physician who has had a misdemeanor. They are not allowed to see Medicaid patients. One of her relatives received a letter stating this. She wondered how this would affect the People’s Clinic since there is no one else taking Medicaid right now. Kathleen said People’s Clinic sees individuals with Medicaid. Cyndy said, “It depends on what kind of Medicaid you have. We could have a crisis with Medicaid patients with the flu season coming up.” Kathleen offered to reach out to Dr. Mercatante and get more information on this.

Tosia wondered whatever happened to Trauma Informed Care. Kathleen said we do offer Trauma Informed Care workshops right now. Tosia said even losing an animal can be very traumatic. Cyndy agreed that animals are “a part of your family.” Kathleen said, “We have had individuals we serve pass away or go inpatient and we have to try to place their pet with someone. We have started having care plans in place for client’s pets.” Martha said, “There have been many animals that have been rescued and placed after hurricanes.” Cyndy said, “Anytime there is a child in foster care they do a trauma assessment and then if they score they come to CMH and do further treatment.” Kathleen said, “We have a clinician that goes to DHS once a week to assess individuals and then they call Access and facilitate services right away.”

Mark Paulus encouraged anyone who is able to attend the Celebration of Recovery awards to go. It is a very positive and uplifting experience.

Lisa Clark commented on the trauma piece. She said she and her husband recently adopted their grandchildren and before they started the whole trauma thing, they hit a brick wall. They went through private agencies and found staff not trained as well as our clinicians are in trauma. Kathleen said she has went through trauma training herself. She will let Cyndy and Lisa know when the next training is available.

Larry Doherty feels it is important when a person is depressed to get them help right away. Kathleen agreed it is not good to take a week for an individual to see someone. She said we are working on that.

Everyone agreed on working with an iPad for future meetings.

VI. ADJOURNMENT – K. Gallagher

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 12:43 pm.

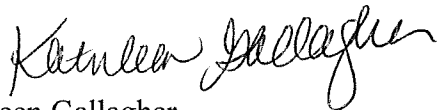
VII. NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, October 30, 2019 from 12-1 in the Summit.

Advisory Committee Mtg.

9-25-19

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Reviewed and Approved By:



Kathleen Gallagher
Program Director

Respectfully Submitted,



Dawn Shell
Recording Secretary

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

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