

*St. Clair County Community Mental Health Authority*

**Advisory Council Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday, November 20, 2019

**PRESENT:** Advisory Committee Members: Lisa Clark, Larry Doherty, Cheryl LaFrance, Martha Partipilo, Antoinette (Tosia) Tucker, Edward Rieves, and Nancy Thomson (Chairperson)

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

**ABSENT:** Advisory Committee Members: Alice Rieves, Nancy Levitt, Richard Parker, Mark Paulus, Cyndy Raymo, and Amy Sanderson

CMH Staff: Dawn Shell (CMH Recording Secretary)

**GUESTS:** CMH Staff: None

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

Nancy called the meeting to order at 12:05 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.

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

**A. CCBHC Update**

Deb provided attendees with a handout that highlights the outline of the Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic. It was reiterated that CCBHC has been federally funded with the amount of \$2,000,000 for year 2019 as well as year 2020. Deb noted that the individuals who qualify for service through CCBHC are those with a mental illness, serious emotional disturbance, substance use disorder, and any other co-occurring disorder (e.g.: substance use combined with mental illness). Individuals will be able to receive services regardless of ability to pay, income level, insurance type, residency, or age. Deb expressed how this is a great change for the Agency, explaining how prior to CCBHC, only individuals with Medicaid or no insurance were eligible for services. Also alleviating the barrier of having to meet the severity criteria provided by the Mental Health Code of Michigan should an individual possess a private insurance. Deb stated that it is estimated that there will be a 25% increase in individuals served over the two year period, bringing to attention the Access Intake data totaling 702 adults in 2018, as well as 893 adults in 2019. She also disclosed based on a current report, the Agency is serving over 2500 individuals since October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019. Deb reports that intakes are being completed daily.

Deb expressed due to the rising amount of individuals being served, the Agency is also experiencing a qualified staff deficit. She explained the Agency is going to hire an in-house recruiter to aid with obtaining master level clinicians and bachelor level staff. Due to a recent change in the licensing requirement, criteria is not as strict for bachelor level staff. Prior to the change, the Agency only hired LBSW (Licensed Bachelor of Social Work) however, the Agency can now employ those who have degrees in Human Services, Sociology, Psychology, etc. Kathleen noted how potential Agency employees also no longer need the licensure, however they would need to be a qualified mental health professional, qualified intellectual disability provider, or a children's mental health provider. Qualifications are met by two years experience in a relevant field at any capacity. Deb noted that she was hired in the Agency 31 years ago with a Bachelor in

Social Work as a qualified intellectual disability provider. However, after the fact, the social work community opted to advocate and legislate that LBSWs were the only ones qualified to provide services. Since then, some requirements have been lifted—it is speculated due to poor staffing issues per the mentioned social work legislation. Deb does not support the idea that having licensure gives a social worker a great skillset. The council expressed the concern that there should be a higher level staff to oversee and verify that unlicensed staff are following proper procedures and protocol. Kathleen and Deb assured that unlicensed staff will have licensed supervisors, just as the LBSWs.

Deb then brought attention to future plans as highlighted on the handout that she provided. Recovery Court is currently in process with community partners. SCCCMH will be providing the clinical component to the program. The objective of Recovery Court is to allow individuals with substance use disorder the option of treatment as opposed to being incarcerated. Individuals will have to meet certain criteria. A Beautiful Me is offered to middle school girls in hopes to boost confidence and self-esteem. SCCCMH is also helping fund Prepare U, a mental health curriculum that will be available in 9<sup>th</sup> grade health classes. Deb noted that she presented to the St. Clair County Superintendents that SCCCMH will be willing to pay for the curriculum in 2019 as well as 2020 through the CCBHC funding. As of yet, Yale, Marysville, Memphis, Riverview East, Marine City and St. Clair High Schools have expressed interest in starting or continuing the Prepare U curriculum. Deb will continue to follow up with PHASD as they have not sent a response. Deb also noted a few other highlights, such as that there will be an Opioid & Other Drugs Summit in the Spring and Summer of 2020 and the Mobile Crisis Unit expansion to Capac and Marine City. She also touched on the hiring of a recruiter to help retain qualified staff in areas that are understaffed, hiring of a dietitian and nutritionist, as well as hiring of integrated healthcare assistants—they would not have to have a degree as they would assist the professionals in completing patient chart work that they are qualified to. Deb also discussed the changing of the Agency's name to better reflect what we offer. That process will involve getting as much input from the county as possible, and could take about a year to complete. However, it would be in the best interest of the Agency and community. Deb also mentioned that Spravato Clinic has now begun and that the new evidence-based practices will soon be implemented. InShape and wellness supports are also being expanded. Deb highlighted a few of the successes to date, such as: SCCCMH has increased the number of staff with substance use credentials as well as recovery coaches and peer support specialists. The agency is now offering a Living Well with Diabetes group, Trauma Sensitive Yoga for adults in children. Staff training for evidence based approaches has been increased. The Agency is continuing partnership with the People's Clinic and considering if they would dedicate a day each to Marine City and Capac.

Deb then brought attention to the data as of 10/31/2019, regarding number of adults served, children served, and the specific number of staff available to each department on the CCBHC side. Deb then discussed that the agency would like to implement more groups and welcomes all suggestions from Advisory Council members. She mentioned starting parental support groups for those who have children with mental or intellectual disabilities, substance use disorders, bullying, divorce, etc. Deb would like to put together a proposal to offer after-school groups for the children in the community who have parents that might have a substance use disorder, cancer, mental illness, etc.

Deb then brought attention to the questions: Are we doing enough to promote access to our agency and the services we offer to the community? Are we doing enough to reduce the stigma surrounding mental health issues? After meeting with the Youth Advisory

Council, Deb would like to do more. YAC highlighted 5 key areas of importance for them: depression, anxiety, substance use, bullying and sports. YAC provided insight that mental illness does not discriminate amongst children, noting even the straight-A student might even struggle with mental health issues. Deb asked the members to provide input.

**B. Adolescent Services Workgroup Goals/Objectives**

Deb noted that there needs to be a comprehensive and complete user friendly resource directory of services offered for youth, providers, and parents to access.

**C. CSCB Annual Meeting – Today!**

Deb invited members to the CSCB Annual meeting at 2:00 PM and noted that Ken Daniels, voice of the Red Wings, will present his family's journey surrounding his late son's opioid addiction.

**D. Agency In-Service**

Deb declared the Agency as closed on Friday 12/13/2019 for the Agency's annual In-Service. She confirmed transportation will still be provided for the contract agencies.

There was discussion regarding the new group home on Lincoln, which is now named the Liberty House. Licensure is anticipated to arrive in January.

**IV. NEW APPLICANT TO ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Motion for acceptance granted.

**V. CMH UPDATES – K. Gallagher**

**A. SUD Groups**

Kathleen addressed the SMART Recovery group, facilitated by peer support coach Megan Coon. SMART Recovery is modeled after a 12-step group that is an evidence based practice.

**B. Recovery Court**

Recovery Court is scheduled to begin December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019 and will serve up to 10 cases. This is for individuals with a substance use diagnosis that are also in a court system. Alexis Hadwin will be the secretary to that program and Judge Monaghan will be the appointed judiciary.

**C. Spravato Update**

Kathleen mentioned per a phone consultation with the drug representative, it would be in best interest to buy and bill due to the high cost. Finance department is currently configuring the billing process.

**D. CLS/Respite Update**

Kathleen noted it has always been difficult to find coverage for community living supports, and a large factor is pay. However, there are 3 organizations that have recently approached the Agency with expressing interest in said position(s). Committee members offered the idea of recruiting within the community, noting specifically SC4 as we could propose a mutual benefit.

There was discussion regarding the new house on Lincoln ran by Innovative Housing and that it would hold 6 individuals at a time. Kathleen noted that there are already ads posted on Facebook for staffing.

**V. COUNCIL ROUND TABLE – Group**

Tosia brought attention to the jail's new mental and physical health provider corizon is finally at full staff. Kathleen stated the jail finally does have full staffing.

Kathleen went to the jail the morning of 11-20-2019 to provide training on how to access the CMH records. However, not all staff can access records to fullest capability due to not having the proper training, which will be provided.

Ed noted that the jail needs to be able to access the CMH records so they can do their job to the fullest extent.

Martha brought attention to the previous HIPAA violations. Kathleen assured that OASIS has been placed under higher security and the data team does and will continue to monitor if staff are accessing records they have no business in. The integrated healthcare assistants will be authorized to view cases on their caseload only. Martha then brought attention to holiday violence. Kathleen then addressed that she does go into the public and speaks about mental illness during the holidays. Nancy brought to attention that the messages being broadcasted should be revamped, Martha suggested adding some humor to the broadcasts as that would help the message resonate with individuals in the community, and having peers do the broadcasts.

**VI. ADJOURNMENT – N. Thomson**

With no further business to discuss, Nancy Thomson adjourned the meeting at 1:03 P.M.

**VI. NEXT MEETING: Wednesday December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019 from 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM in Auditorium.**

Reviewed and Approved By:



Kathleen Gallagher  
Program Director

Respectfully Submitted,



Kaeley Hux  
Recording Secretary

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