

St. Clair County Community Mental Health Authority

Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, November 15, 2023

PRESENT:

Advisory Committee Members: Nora Condland

CMH Staff: Debra Johnson (Chief Executive Officer), Kristen Thompson, (Assistant Division Director), Sarah Herrle (Community Relations Representative), Jami Strickler (CMH Recording Secretary)

ABSENT: Nancy Thompson, Lisa Clark, Ruth Thick, Alesha Fay, Nancy Levitt, Harold Powell, Cynthia Raymo, Martha Partipilo, Amy Sanderson

I. Call to Order/Agenda Changes –D. Johnson

Ms. Debra Johnson, Chief Executive Officer called the meeting to order at 12:06 p.m.

II. Review/Accept Meeting Minutes - Group

Tabled due to attendance

III. Executive Director Updates – D. Johnson

- **Bill 227**

Ms. Johnson reports that 227 has passed in the House and Senate and is awaiting Governor's signature. Once Bill 227 is signed the Agency is prepared to immediately start plans for a Children's Crisis Center. Ms. Heidi Fogarty has begun working on ideas to jump start the process.

- **Strategic Planning Update**

The Agency is close to completing the strategic priorities in the updated plan. Work force development, education, and program excellence are newly added priorities to the strategic plan.

- **Mission Vision Values**

Ms. Johnson provided attendee's with newest visuals of the potential Mission, Vision and Values artwork. An informal survey was conducted, and feedback was received.

- **Opioid Advisory Commission**

This collaborative effort was established to oversee the spending of the Opioid Settlement funds. Two "Listening Sessions" will be held in St. Clair County, one on January 6th at the Bluewater Outreach Center, and the second on January 10th at the Community Mental Health Electric Avenue office auditorium. Dates still need final approval, and there is hope for the opportunity for virtual attendance.

IV. CMH Updates- K. Thompson

- **Community Enterprises**

The Agency was alerted to the upcoming closing of the River District location of Community Enterprises. Ms. Thompson along with Ms. Gallagher met with Algonac and Marine City families affected by this closure last week to discuss concerns. There is an ongoing effort to find a different location for this program.

- **Galley Update**

The Agency has signed a contract with Touchstone to run a food service program through the Galley. It will become a supported employment site for people with severe mental illness, and will provide lunches to Staff. The current goal is that this program can begin sometime in February, if not sooner. Home-style cooking classes will continue in the CIS kitchen area, and will soon be available in Agency satellite offices as well.

- **Early Childhood Court**

The Agency has received the approval for the grant which will provide funds to focus on infant mental health families (birth to age 3) who are involved in child protective services, to attempt to preserve family structure with frequent court contacts, court mandated services, similar to Mental Health Court. This will be a collaborative effort between CMH, Family Court, and MDHHS. Samantha Lord will be the Magistrate associated with this program.

- **Community Activities**

The Agency will be entering into an agreement with the SUNS Organization to lease 2 classrooms in the Harrison School in Port Huron for youth based classes and activities. Music, art and gardening classes are currently being proposed.

- **DBT**

A video produced by the Agency was played for the attendee which highlighted the DBT (Dialectical Behavior Therapy) Program at CMH. This video shows how the evidenced based practice program works with individuals diagnosed with Borderline Personality Disorder to teach coping skills that can be utilized on a daily basis to improve the quality of their life. The Agency has plans to produce educational videos on all Programs offered, which will be able to be viewed from the CMH website.

V. Quality Improvement Updates- D. Choiniere

Ms. Choiniere provided attendants with a brief update regarding the FY2024 Quality Improvement Program Plan as well as the FY2023 Quality Improvement Plan Annual Report. Electronic copies of both reports were provided to Advisory Council Members.

VI. Community Relations- S. Herrle

- **CMH Players- Home for the Holidays**

Ms. Herrle reminded attendees of the upcoming CMH Players production of Home for the Holidays. This production spotlights a series of short plays with comedic undertones that highlight the spirit of the holiday season. CMH players consist of Individuals receiving services, family members, and staff members of the Agency. Tickets are available at the cost of \$5.00 for the 7:00pm performances at the Citadel Theatre on November 17th and 18th. Additionally there will be a free show performed November 17th at 12:00pm at the Community Mental Health Auditorium as a “final rehearsal” for the players.

VII. Policy Review

There were no Advisory Council Policies up for review the month of November.

VIII. Old Business

There was no Old Business discussed at this month’s meeting.

IX. Council Round Table

- Ms. Condland initiated a conversation regarding navigating the process of petitioning individuals into treatment and gaining Guardianship when it is deemed necessary. Discussion took place which included the need for a designated person (Systems Navigator) who could be contacted who would be able to guide persons through different procedures relating to mental health care and interconnected matters.

X. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 12:32 PM by Debra Johnson

XI. Next Meeting

Wednesday, December 20, 2023 from 12PM-1PM via Lifesize or in person

Respectfully Submitted By:

Jami Strickler
Recording Secretary

cc: Debra Johnson, Chief Executive Officer