

St. Clair County Community Mental Health Authority

Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 18, 2023

PRESENT:

Advisory Committee Members: Nancy Thomson, Nora Condland, Martha Partipilo, Alesha Fay, Amy Sanderson, Lisa Clark, Ruth Thick, Tosia Tucker, Cynthia Raymo

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

ABSENT: Barbra Belkiewicz, Larry Doherty, Nancy Levitt, Mark Paulus

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

Nancy Thomson, Advisory Council Chairperson called the meeting to order at 12:06 p.m.

II. REVIEW/ACCEPT MINUTES - Group

The Advisory Council members accepted the minutes from December 21, 2022 as presented.

III. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE –D. Johnson

A. Community Forums

Ms. Johnson reminded the Council of the upcoming forums taking place throughout the community. The purpose of these are to give updates to the community regarding CMH programs, issues that affect our services, and be open to a Q&A amongst the attendees. Agency presenters will have questions to ask the crowd, should time permit.

IV. CMH Updates- K. Gallagher

A. Direct Care Worker- Train the Trainer

This formalized training is an opportunity to address the shortage of qualified CLS workers in our community, the Agency will have an opportunity thru the Michigan associate of Community Mental Health boards to participate. This will allow CMH to send staff to group homes or facilities experiencing difficulties. Applications are due by the end of January, and approval will be determined by the second week of February. Certification should translate to pay increases for staff who participate.

B. Customer Satisfaction Survey

As was discussed in a previous Advisory Council meeting; this year resulted in significantly less responses from individuals and guardians than previous in years. CMH is looking for feedback regarding what we can do at the agency level on how to increase the level of people responding. Ms. Gallagher requested suggestions from the Council. Possible

ideas included: Online survey options, Surveys completed during groups or sessions at CMH, offer opportunity for prize or incentive for returned completed surveys, cold calls and mass texts.

C. Annual Awards

Every May, St. Clair County Community Mental Health presents awards to individuals, organizations, and businesses who support the work we do and the individuals we serve. Council members are encouraged to submit nominations for anyone they feel are deserving of this recognition. Nominations are requested by January 31st.

V. IT Update- D. Hayes

Mr. Hayes provided a presentation on a free app, “Caring Village”, which could be used by contract group homes for communication with Guardians and families of residents. Dann provided a Q&A of basic talking points to the Council, as well as the contact information of the app creator should there be more questions. At this time, group homes would not be required to use the app, but the hope is that they will choose to take advantage of this opportunity to improve communication.

VI. Community Relations Update- S. Herrle

A. Creative Arts Contest

The deadline for participation in the Creative Arts Contest is coming up. Council members were encouraged to spread the word. Council members had follow up questions regarding submission judging, and how the Agency determines which age groups are assigned the creative art.

B. Traveling Art Show

The Agency is currently hosting the Community Mental Health Association of Michigan’s Traveling Art Show and exhibits are currently on display in the Galley at the main building on Electric Avenue. This art has been submitted by Individuals who receive public mental health services throughout the state of Michigan.

C. The Keel

The Keel is an online news source that has recently spotlighted CMH employees in two of its articles. These pieces provide valuable insight to readers on what CMH does for the community.

VII. Old Business

A. Innovative Payments

Online payments are an option available to contract group homes. Participation is being considered.

VIII. Policy Review

- NONE

IX. Council Round Table

- Ms. Clark informed the Council of the conclusion of extra DHS Covid food benefits next month. It is anticipated that Medicaid reviews will resume as early as April.
- Ms. Raymo would like the Council’s assistance in spreading the word regarding RESA’s

Great Start program. This early childhood program is state funded and offers free preschool to qualifying families. Ms. Raymo is available, and offers to present her “Where are the Children” demonstration to CMH staff. Ms. Gallagher to have CMH Training Coordinator reach out regarding this.

X. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 12:52PM by Nancy Thomson

XI. Next Meeting

Wednesday, February 15, 2023 from 12PM-1PM via Lifesize or in person

Respectfully Submitted By:

Jami Strickler
Recording Secretary

cc: Debra B. Johnson, Chief Executive Officer
Kathleen Gallagher, Program Director
Tracy Goyette, Executive Secretary
Advisory Committee Members
Marcy Cameron
Electronic Record