

*St. Clair County Community Mental Health Authority*

**Advisory Council Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday, October 19, 2022

**PRESENT:**

**Advisory Committee Members:** Nancy Thomson (Chairperson), Barbara Belkiewicz, Lisa Clark, Nora Conland, Alesha Fay, Mark Paulus, Cynthia Raymo, Ruth Thick, Tosia Tucker

**CMH Staff:** Debra Johnson (Chief Executive Officer), Sarah Herrle (Community Relations Representative), Denise Choiniere (Data Management Representative), Jami Strickler (CMH Recording Secretary)

**ABSENT:** Kathleen Gallagher, Nancy Levitt, Martha Partipilo

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

Nancy Thomson, Advisory Council Chairperson called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

**II. WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

New members, Ruth Thick (Port of Hopes), Nora Conland (Community Artist) and Alesha Fay (Odyssey House) introduced themselves to the Council and gave a brief explanation of their experience with mental health services and/or SUD Treatment.

**III. REVIEW/ACCEPT MINUTES - Group**

The Advisory Council members accepted the minutes from August 17, 2022 as presented.

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

**A. Port of Hopes Vacancies**

Ms. Johnson explained that the Board for the Port of Hopes has vacancies that need to be filled. Ms. Johnson invited Ms. Thick to explain the services that the Port provides to the community. There was discussion regarding the Port of Hopes and the Odyssey House and how Individuals use their services, as well as needs for both facilities.

**B. Wave Mosaic/Special Art Project**

CMH is happy to announce its participation in a Special Art Project collaboration with new member Nora Conland. Ms. Conland recently revealed her first mosaic art piece of the “We are all different, but swim in the same pond” public art installation in downtown Port Huron. This is opportunity for local businesses and facilities to participate in this exhibit by displaying working with Nora to create their own “Fish” to display to tie in with the “Wave”. They Agency has committed to join the project, and plans to give Individuals the opportunity to help create “Fish” to be displayed at our four locations.

**C. In The Know**

Ms. Johnson explained that “In The Know” is a monthly electronic newsletter sent out by the Agency that highlights different events, employee acknowledgements,

advocacy alerts and other general news within St. Clair County Community Mental Health. Ms. Johnson extends the opportunity to all Council Members to sign up to also receive this publication so that they might benefit from the information provided.

**D. Local NAMI Officiant**

Ms. Johnson informed the Council that the Agency has submitted a new application for NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness), and is in the process of creating a Steering Committee. NAMI serves as an advocacy source and support system for families of persons diagnosed with severe mental illness.

**V. SATISFACTION SURVEY UPDATE- D. Choiniere**

Ms. Choiniere discussed the provided handout regarding the satisfaction surveys. The Agency is in the final stages of the report. It was noted that there was a decrease in returned surveys the years that they have been exclusively sent out via mail, and that there was more responses when they were given in office to individuals to fill out and return in addition to being mailed out. Other avenues will be looked into regarding future distribution of surveys.

**VI. CMH Updates- D. Johnson**

**A. Music and Minds Group**

The Agency has reengaged the Music and Minds Group and has been well received by the individuals. The class addresses the healing power of music and art while empowering individuals. Group takes place on Wednesdays at 3pm and are currently being held at the Electric Avenue office in the CIS area.

**B. Jail Update**

The Jail continues to be contracted through Yes Care (formally known as Corizen). The Mobile Crisis Unit touches base with the jail Monday-Friday, and the Agency continues to assess the current spending on the medications that CMH is still providing due to divergences in what is offered through Yes Care.

**VII. CCBHC Updates –D. Johnson**

The Agency did not receive its requested renewal for the CCBHS grant. It does continue as a Certified Behavioral Health Clinic, and still receives enhanced funding from the State as it continues in demonstration.

**VIII. Community Relations Update- S. Herrle**

Ms. Herrle updated the Council on the upcoming Agency sponsored event the CMH Players Present: It's a Wonderful Life, a Radio Play. Tickets are \$5.00 a person and shows will take place on Friday, November 18<sup>th</sup> at 12:00pm and 7:00pm, as well as Saturday, November 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm. Advance ticket sale requests can be made to (810) 966-3706.

**IX. Policy Review**

- 02-001-0040 Grievance Process
- 02-001-0045 Appeal Process & Second Opinion
- 03-001-0010 Self Determination/Choice Voucher
- 05-001-0080 Recipient Rights Advisory Committee

**X. Council Round Table**

- Frequency of Meeting- Ms. Nancy Thomson directed that meetings will continue to occur on a monthly basis at this time.
- No Members had any further items to discuss.

**XI. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 1:12pm by Nancy Thomson

**XII. Next Meeting**

**Wednesday, November 16, 2022 from 12PM-1PM via Lifesize or in person**

Reviewed and Approved By:

Respectfully Submitted By:

Kathleen Gallagher  
Program Director

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