Community Services Board Meeting Minutes  
December 16, 2020

Present for Tele-Conference: René Snyder, Leisa Alger, Ellen Topping, David Andreine, Lori Murphy, Sean Eagan, Jennifer Emery, Michelle Johnson, Jeff Eaton, Rebecca Robertshaw, Joe Cevette, Brian Hart

Excused: Dr. Michele Pavillard

Absent: Rosemary Anthony, Dr. Mihai Dascalu

Guest: Erica Robinson

Meeting called to order by David. Minutes approved without changes.

Sub-Committee Reports:

- Mental Health Committee- Lori Murphy
  1. Suicide Prevention Updates: The Committee met last week and made a major decision. Due to Covid-19 they will not be doing the Walk-A-Mile event at Eldridge Park this year, they are looking at doing a drive-thru event at Chapel Park in Southport. They are still looking at May 1st as the date, and it will start at 9am. Register online for a t-shirt, and when you drive through you will also receive a “Hope” flag and “Hope” magnet. They have some details to work out with the Town of Southport, and are hoping to move forward. T-Shirt Distribution Day is changing as well. It will be at the Journey Center/Church and it will be a drive-thru event as well, to keep everyone safe. More detail to follow as to date and time.

  2. State Aid Proposal: In the Governor’s budget proposal there will be a modification to the 20% withhold. The 20% withhold for OASAS State Funding has been going on since the third quarter of 2020 and continues. The State has allowed each local DCS to determine where the withhold will occur, except for Housing. The State said that they did not want to see anyone evicted so there would not be any cuts to housing. The Governor’s proposal is that the 20% withhold will become a 5% cut with reconciliation for 2020 and 2021 to occur at the end of 2021. The 5% cut will go retroactive to the 3rd quarter of 2020. This new proposal will only occur if NYS receives 6 Billion Dollars from the Federal Government. It has been mentioned that 15 Billion Dollars could potentially be coming to NYS. This Federal Funding would not be coming until the end of this year. It was mentioned in the Developmental Disabilities meeting that one of the providers were told they would be receiving 15%. It was advised not to spend it, until we know for sure that NYS will be receiving at least 6 Billion from the Federal Government.

  3. Merger (OAMHS): The new name if the merger happens will be “Office of Addiction and Mental Health Services”. The easy part of the merger will be changing the name and consolidating administrative staff and field offices. The difficult challenge will be dealing with unions (lay-offs), and making sure the Regulations and Laws of OASAS and OMH align, and this will take several years.

  4. Crisis Stabilization Centers: These Centers will be for both Substance Abuse and Mental Health. Not sure how many Centers there will be, but they will be open 24 hours a day 365 Days a year.
They will not be at hospitals, as the goal is to keep them out of the ER, and will be open to law enforcement for pick-ups involving substance abuse. There are pilots in NYC with a potential to work off these models. There are still a lot of questions pertaining to billable services (rates/reimbursements and staffing) and how this will affect the current mobile CRISIS program.

5. **Article 9 - Neglect of Self Care**: This is a new added component to Article 9 under Involuntary Admissions. This will be a major change to pick-up orders. This is when an individual is doing harm to himself/herself pertaining to food, clothing, and personal needs. This can open up Pandora’s Box with our homeless population. There are people who choose to wear shorts in cold weather, and there are people who do not have the money to purchase new clothing. Just because someone looks disheveled does not mean the individual needs to have a pick-up order done on them.

6. **Family Services** – There are two new groups at Family Services. The first group is a Duel Diagnosis Group, which currently has low referrals. This has a curriculum, clinicians, and is for adults who have been clinically diagnosed with both. The second group is a Wellness Group, which currently has low referrals. This will deal with health and well-being such as smoking sensation etc. Brian will share the fliers with everyone.

7. **EPC - Social Connection** – In March they will be starting a Native Spirituality Group. This is a Learning Group in which they learn about science, history, and researching different topics. They also have a Book Group for avid readers. Brian will share the fliers with everyone.

8. **Care Management** is changing on March 8, 2021, for mental health providers. They will be providing a list soon of those who are specialty Health Home Plus providers. They will only be working with those clients who have the highest needs. This will only occur for the adult side, and children will probably change over in one to two years. You need to document that they have not met their goal or are continuing to work on the goal in order to keep the clients services. The State will save 8 to 10 Million by not serving the individuals with lower needs. EPC has not yet submitted a letter as they have some other steps to complete, and will need the local LGU’s approval.

- **Substance Abuse - Jennifer**
  1. **Same issues as mental health committee**

  2. **OCM - Office of Cannabis Management**: In the Governor’s budget proposal he would like to create the Office of Cannabis Management. This would be under the Division of Alcohol and Beverage Control. The proposal does not explain exactly what this office will do, but it does say that it will create 20 Million in State Revenue and in 2 to 3 years will create 374 Million in State Revenue. This office should oversee adult legalization and medical marijuana. This has not been finalized; it is just a proposal and is subject to Legislative Approval.

  3. **Stephen’s Law - Emergency Contact - 3/11/2021**: This is referring to OASAS providers. Starting 3/11/2021 providers who receive OASAS funding will have clients identify emergency contacts. If the client does not have any or refuses to identify any emergency contacts, they will need to document that they did not identify/or refused to identify. This is subject to
more clarification from OASAS with guidelines and protocols. Providers who receive OMH funding are not obligated but would be good practice.

4. **Helio Health (Binghamton)** – Helio is based out of Syracuse NY and used to be Syracuse Behavioral Health. They have been expanding over the years in Rochester, Utica, and Binghamton. They have been in Binghamton sense 2018 with a Detox Patient Rehab Unit. There are 50 beds, and they do walk-ins for detox, and was definitely needed in Broome County. They are currently expanding in Binghamton and adding more beds, as well as residential services. They are located in the old Broome Developmental in Building 1. It was mentioned that they have worked well with New Dawn at St. Joe’s to get patients from detox to New Dawn for admission.

5. **CASA-Trinity** – The Elmira site had an Audit last November and after working on their corrective action plan, they now have an operating certificate for 3 years. This is a dramatic improvement from the last Audit.

> **Developmental Disability- Leisa**

1. **Housing Proposed Changes (State to Voluntary, and Community Hab Support Wrap Around);** This is also in the Governor’s budget Proposal. They are saying it will save 22 Million Dollars. The Voluntary will not receive all State funds. There is no rate enhancement to provide more supports. Brian would like to see more pushed in services. That would help minimize ER visits as well as staff turnover. Brian asked if anyone had heard anything, and one committee member stated that they heard that when they empty a state spot, the state will be filling them with individuals that they had to place out of state due to being full. Having someone placed out of State costs more money. The regional rates for residential are undetermined at this time. A committee member stated that the CCO’s are being cut an additional 20% on top of the 20% that was just done. There are 7 CCO’s who are trying to advocate against these cuts. A 39% cut is devastating to these agencies. They are putting something together to give out to others to help advocate for them. They will email it to Brian so that he can share with everyone. The State is saying that they are saving 20.8 Million and are adjusting payments to CCO’s for actual spending. The committee member stated that the State does not have access to their financial reports so how do they know what the CCO’s actual spending really is? The reality is that what is actually said and what is written means something drastically different. The State wants the CCO’s to add on additional responsibilities and at the same time are decreasing their funding.

2. **ARC** – Brian shared that ARC submitted their proposal to finalize the closure the sheltered workshop. Brian stated he signed and approved it but with reservations. Where do developmental disabled individuals go if they are unable to volunteer or work in competitive employment? A committee member stated they were glad that Brian registered his resistance to the closure of the sheltered workshop.

> **Nominating Committee- Jennifer**
1. With one vacancy, Jennifer is recommending Baily Johnson, the Clinical Director at Trinity of Chemung. Baily has submitted her resume to both Jennifer and Brian and comes with several years of experience. No questions about her as a candidate. Jennifer made this and official motion, seconded by David, and voted on unanimously for submission to the County Legislature for approval. Two terms expired in December and were overlooked, but need to be voted on for renewal. This are for current members Leisa Alger and Lori Murphy. Both accepted nomination to continue on the board. Motion made by David and seconded by Joe. Unanimous vote to approve them for legislative approval.

▼ Director’s report:

1. **Agency stability:** Issue was raised for discussion on the impact COVID-19 is having on agencies financial stability and the potential need for mergers, consolidations... At the same time the message from state agencies differs from one to the other. Some are allowing the LGU to determine where the withholds, and presuming where the cuts will be, while others are intercepting the money. René gave an example of two other state agencies that indicated they will be forwarding the 15% on the assumption that the federal government will in fact receive 6 billion dollars for NYS. Caution was provided to not spend that until the 6 billion is confirmed for fear that the state could come back and ask for the funds back. David was receiving a message that they should spend at the full 100% of budget despite only receiving 80% now, and possibly ending up at least being cut 5% permanently. One option for stability that can be helpful, and several agencies have utilized it, is job sharing in which the employees working part of the week and are on unemployment for the other part. One agency reported saving $40,000/mo. using this method.

2. **New Provider requests:** Brian is getting more pressure from agencies several hours away to start delivery services in our community, even going so far as to send contracts for signature without any discussions. This is further complicated by various state agencies either not following regulations to the contrary of this practice, and/or simply establishing new rules encouraging over saturation of providers. The latest of which is NYS DOH approving 30 Fiscal Intermediaries for Chemung County when we have been meeting the needs with two. Brian reported that he continues to push back on these requests.

3. **Police Reform and Reinvention:** Brian has been a part of the local committee in response to the governor’s Executive order. This committee has been meeting for several months and had a subcommittee focused on the mental health needs as well. The latter recommended online training from the SAMHSA Disaster Technical Assistance Center for law enforcement ER and ambulance staff. In addition, they looked at adding peers to the crisis team as consultants to first responders and lastly they recommended inviting Arnot and Erway to the quarterly meeting with Family Services crisis, law enforcement leadership and Brian as a QI process enhancement.
4. **EPD training:** Brian recently participated in a daily 45 minute training for two weeks with officers at the Elmira Police Department. The focus of these presentations and open discussions was how to respond to situations involving mental health situations, and the utilization of 9.41 and/or working collaboratively with crisis on 9.45 orders. The presentations were well received by attendees.

5. **EPC Youth Crisis Respite:** Changes are coming to this service as OMH Central Office has decided to convert these services to a Youth crisis Residence, and the initial dialogue didn’t indicate even that, but simply that they were adding a clinical component of a Social Worker. This has prompted Brian to start asking questions first of EPC, then the NYS OMH Field Office and Central Office as to why these changes are happening in silence, and secondly what exactly are the anticipated impacts on this regional service.

6. **CIDS DOH Grant??** Brian reported that there have been a couple of services added for the provision of mental health services to young children without talking to the LGU in advance. The first was at the Chemung County Child Care Council where they have started an Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation Service. Brian was also given the impression that CIDS was selected to receive some major funds representing Chemung County as one of only four counties in the state to have this pilot form NYS DOH. As such Brian was left with the impression that a portion of the program would provide mental health consultation in Arnot Pediatrics despite them having psychiatry residence and Guthrie Pediatrics despite PEC being in their office for that exact purpose.

David clarified in great length that this is a “First 1,000 day” pilot for DOG for what he described as light tough home visiting with a goal of positive outcomes from birth and ultimately assuring enhanced school readiness. It is based on the Medicaid and/or Medicaid eligible population and the other three counties include Brooklyn, Monroe and Albany. By design, a peer navigator will youth with services and then follow them until they connect with the in home visiting program. A condition of the pilot is to have a database system able to collect and report on data to ultimately arrive at value based payment methodologies for the future. They will be using COMET for this purpose.

> **Sharing by Members**

1. **Closure:** Joe announces that Pathways is closing their Pre-school classrooms in both Chemung and Steuben counties. This will leave 30 slots not available in Chemung. Brian reported that he is aware that his staff have been talking with potential providers and the districts about replacing these.

2. **YWCA CEO:** Michelle noted that she is leaving the YWCA and they are in the process of searching for her replacement, however she is willing and able to stay on the CSB as her position is by person, not by agency.

3. **Next meeting April 21, 2021**