Community Services Board
December 15, 2021

Present: Dr. Pavillard, Lori M., Michele J., Rene S., Rosemary A., Jennifer E., Susan B., Ellen T., Dr. Dascalu, Brian H.

Excused: Bailey J., Sean E., Lori M., Leisa A.

Absent: Rebecca R., Joe C., Anthony Alvernaz

Guests: David A.

Minutes: Brian

No changes to the minutes. Motion to approve by Leisa, seconded by Rosemary. All in favor with no abstentions.

Welcome to Susan Bull as new board member representing Arbor as she is their new CEO.

Mental Health Committee: Brian on behalf of Lori

- **Suicide Prevention**: Brian indicated that they did not cover this in the committee meeting, but there was a successful survivor event held with approximately 20-25 attendees.

- **EPC Children and youth beds**: The Elmira Psychiatric Center’s inpatient unit for youth had been closed due to COVID related issues on the campus. The remaining youth were discharged or transferred to GBHC. With staff so low, they have not been able to reopen the crisis youth respite program yet.

- **Family Services changes**: Jennifer Emery left her role as the Clinic Director and has started a new role as Vice President of mental health with Trinity. The Associate Clinic Director, Dina O’Herron will be leaving on 12/18/21. They have posted for these positions.

- **Police Reform updates**: The MAPP pilot will start soon as staff have received the i-Pods and been trained on the program. Family Services is in the process of hiring a peer to join the crisis team, and early in 2022, a group from Rochester will be coming to conduct a Sequential Intercept Model table top discussion with interested stakeholders to define keep points that touch individuals during the process of seeking mental health services, and where there is opportunity to improve.

- **AOT**: Brian discussed in detail the background of AOT, and that as a county we rarely pursue such, but use an Informal or Enhanced AOT known locally as a DCS Plan with good success. However, there have been two cases recently
involving other counties placing someone on AOT in our county and not following the law related to such. As a result, the county was able to successfully have one vacated, and placed on a DCS plan instead, and the other was provided guidance as to assuring that the care management and housing were available prior to release. In the end, what seems to be happening is many of the components of the law are not being followed, and OMH is not closely monitoring this, so patients’ rights are being violated.

**Substance Abuse Committee: Jennifer**

- **Opioid Reversals:** We have experienced 89 referrals YTD compared to 96 last year and refusals for follow-up after receiving Narcan. This is significant in that most counties across the state are reporting dramatic increases in overdoses.

- **Commissioner:** With a new Governor in place, OASAS has named Chinas Cunningham as the new Commissioner.

- **MAT:** OASAS is providing additional funding to expand Medication Assisted treatment (MAT) in the jail, so the County and Trinity are trying to figure out how to use the funds with a decreased population in the jail following bail reform.

- **Trauma Informed Care:** Today is the last day to register for this training on January 11th and 12th as noted on the OASAS website.

- **Recovery Tax:** A tax credit is available for those in recovery that are working at least 500 hours a year. More information is available on the website.

**Developmental Disability Committee: Renee on behalf of Leisa’s**

- **Effects of COVID on programing:** Participants spoke briefly about the impact that the pandemic is having on the ability to continue to provide services including downsizing an IRA in Schuyler by ARC, and decreased availability and utilization at capabilities.

- **ED struggles:** Brian had recently sent out an e-mail to a broad audience outlining the struggles of law enforcement, crisis, Erway, and the Arnot to meet the needs of the individuals in crisis needing assessment and possible admission. This led to a discussion about how local IDD agencies could be helpful as resources for their expertise in assessing the needs of and helping individuals with developmental disabilities. One area of high need in this regard seems to be related to discharge planning that isn’t always believed to be safe for the individual.
➢ **Food Insecurity:** AIM has started a program that is having great success in helping get food in the hands of those in need in Chemung, Steuben and Schuyler counties including a delivery service when needed. People are eligible every 2 weeks. This program is being done in cooperation with the Food Bank of the Southern Tier.

**Nominating Committee: Jennifer**

➢ Nothing to report as all positions are filled accept we need to nominate a Vice Chairperson.

**Director’s Report: Brian**

➢ **Families First:** NYS OCFS has modified a federal program and has mandated DSS in each county to comply. The purpose is to make every effort possible to place youth with family members. When that is not feasible, then an assessment by a Qualified Individual (QI) must be completed within 30 days. However, OCFS has no guidance as to fees or CPT/Rate codes for this purpose. The actual assessment, collateral visits and follow-up would be standard to bill, but stakeholder meetings and court time would not, so they get billed to the county, who will apply on a case by case basis for Title IV-E funding. This process is repeated at every permanency hearing in 6-month intervals. Not every county has QI’s, so other counties may look to use family Services, which in turn limits their availability to not only do QI’s for Chemung, but be available for their normal responsibilities.

➢ **Pick up orders:** Since police reform, law enforcement agencies have become more reluctant to force someone to comply with a mental health pick up order under sections 9.41 and 9.45 for example. Brian and Chief Alvernaz have agreed that EPD will not “kick down doors”, but will work with crisis to engage individuals in discussion and try to convince them to go willingly. There has also been some confusion about if in fact law enforcement can simply ignore a pick-up order, and/or inform Brian’s designees that they will decide if the person meets the criteria. This is not permitted in the law. We are all working collaboratively to improve these situations as well as a sense that the ED staff simply turn people around too quickly, presenting possible dangerous situations.

➢ **Family Services presentation:** David Shapiro will be coming to the February meeting to present on their proposed Intensive Community-Based Services for children and youth.
Sharing by others:

Dr. Pavillard mentioned that she recently heard about Fentanyl test strips being handed out to consumers to check their drugs for traces of the Fentanyl. Is this being discussed in Chemung. Brian will research.

Next Meeting - **February 16, 2022**