Substance Abuse Committee
January 17, 2018

Present: Brian Hart, Jennifer Emery, Linda Waite, Megan Wise, Ellie Collins, Erin Doyle, Mary Vosburgh, Lisa Willson, Catherine Basu

Excused: Kernalia Andrews

Minutes:

Approved without changes

Director of Community Services Report – Brian Hart

- **Reversing the Stigma:** About 75 people showed up and discussion went to about 8:15pm. There was some great discussion from a wide variety of individuals from the audience (Stakeholders, Family Members, Addicts). Two local media stations were there covering the event. It was clear that we don’t have a perfect system. There is no funding to fill the gaps, such as step down housing. Rehab is not always available after detox, and there is no other alternative. With Youth, avoidance doesn’t work, as they have no choice but to go back into the same environment. Brian asked for feedback from other committee members who attended. It was stated that this has opened up the impact on the stigma. Staff need to promote and understand that this is not a one and done disease. There are also Health Insurance barriers. The audiences’ questions started out slow, until they started to feel comfortable. It was stated that the questions were well rounded and helpful. The stigma is still there for Mental Health and Addiction. There is a need for more positive stories in the media and family support. Housing issues are dealt with all the time, but they are making some progress. It was stated that the presentation covered all across New York State, and tied back to Chemung County. The audience response to the information given seemed to be well received. People know what they know, but they need to keep searching and figure out how to find it. We need to learn how to educate the masses. Agencies and committee members need to know, so that we can give the information to those seeking information. Last night was just the beginning, and we need to learn how to expand. We have a long way to go as the committee needs to address the unmet needs in the community.

- **SARA Update:** They continue to have Subcommittee meetings and a full Coalition meeting. Brian Hart and Ann Domingos attended the Bradford County Coalition meeting. Bradford was encouraged to join with Williamsport, but they still want local input and services. They wanted to incorporate, but Brian showed them how we do funding, and when you incorporate you need to file taxes and a lot of paperwork. Bradford County has fatalities just like Chemung County. The subcommittees have been meeting and have been very productive. The Social Media & Messaging subcommittee is making sure we
don’t duplicate, and are trying to figure out how to educate the masses. The other subcommittees are Access, Law Enforcement, and Social Deterrence.

- **BHCC Update:** The Behavioral Health Care Collaborative – working toward Value Based Payments. Several requests for proposals for IPA’s have been submitted and approved. The three local networks that we would utilize are Genesee County (group of co-directors)-3.3 Million in funding, Trinity/FLACRA-1.7 Million in funding, Catholic Charities/Hillside-1.5 Million in funding. Advice is to participate with the networks but do not sign contracts. Need to identify the gaps in care, and IT capabilities. 75 Million dollars has been committed to this project. One IPA structure needs a network, staffing, infrastructure, and cash flow

- **Local 507 Planning:** Need to start thinking about what we wrote last year and what we want to put down this year. Need to create multi-stake holders across the state. We need to know what is working and not working for Managed Care. VBP does not use Mental Health measures. They really don’t have a metrics. They make up their own measures, and when you are dealing with multiple, it’s hard to collect data for each one. It can be very expensive. We need to look into redesigning residential services going from detox to impatient. We need to address over complicated home based services. We need to educate people as to what services are available to them. There has been a push from the state to close all sheltered workshops. Capabilities and ARC’s workshops will be eliminated. Some of the people will be able to make it out in the work force, while others will not be as successful. The deadline for closure is July 2018, as they want integration between developmental disabilities and the outside workforce.

What would should we recommend/change/enhance/eliminate? We need more transitional housing. DSS classifies i-Matter’s transitional home for males as a rooming house and they are not getting as much money for rent. Spoke with DSS and have not reached a resolution as of yet. They are in the process of re-wording some of their paperwork. DSS is looking at them as being a landlord, and not a program. New i-Matter applications for their men’s and women’s transitional/supportive housing were given out to committee members. The woman’s house is located at 465 W. Water St. Elmira NY 14901 and the men’s house is located at 304 W. First Street Elmira NY 14901. They can have a total of 8 residents in each home.

We need to educate and support. The person (who is not an addict) in the household who may have children also living in the home are being reported to CPS. What can we do?

Health Insurance has been an issue. A 14 day stay is good, but they are on the phone begging the insurance company to give them 3 more days.

We need a formal Detox.

We need a Methadone Clinic, so they do not have to go to Rochester or Binghamton. It’s hard to have data that there is a need, so where can they go?
Question was asked if New Dawn had a detox license and the answer was, no they do not have a detox license. What about a scatter bed detox? Binghamton received 3 million to renovate 50 beds in the formal Broome County Developmental Center. They get all the treatment there, and Broome County has 3 times the issue that is in Chemung County. It was mentioned that a focused unit works better. Arnot is willing to look into a focused unit. St. Joseph’s might be ideal for Rehabilitation. There is a grant for Arnot Emergency Department. The BSU has to be linked to the Emergency Department.

Keep thinking of what we could change.

**Sharing by Community Members**

- **Brian Hart:** Handed out pamphlets for the 6th Annual Chemung County Art of Self-Regulation Conference – Breathe, Body, Mind.

  The next meeting is scheduled for February 21, 2018.