Substance Abuse Committee
June 20, 2018


Excused: Megan Wise

Minutes:

Approved without changes

Director of Community Services Report – Brian Hart

- **Changes at New Dawn:** Jeanne Chapple is no longer the Director of New Dawn, and has been replaced by Glenn Jarvis. Glenn has been with the Salvation Army (Our House) and with CASA Trinity. He started as Director on Monday (6/18/2018). The Director of the BSU at St. Joe’s Cindy (“CC”) has resigned and they are now looking for her replacement. Dr. Fidan is also leaving in mid-July. This is a big transition and patience is recommended.

- **i-Matter House:** 1 1/2 years ago they opened a home for men in recovery. Now they have opened an 8 bed home for women in recovery. One of the beds is reserved for a “house parent” who lives there all the time. They just had an open house and it’s located on the corner of Water Street & Walnut Street. This house is staffed with volunteers and is very similar to the men’s home. The open house went well and 6 out of the 7 beds available are filled. The residents appeared to be happy to have a safe, comfortable place to live during their recovery. They are now looking to expand and open a second men’s home. It was mentioned by one of the other committee members that attended the open house that he felt it was an interesting concept and it appeared as though they were very supportive of each other, like a family.

- **Salvation Army Plans:** There has more demand for beds for their halfway house (Our House). They are looking at possibly expanding the beds, by either adding on to the home on the back side of the property, or in the basement to help meet the demand. They have also been looking at different options and have decided to submit a grant proposal for ESHHI funding through the federal government. The plan is to build a mixed housing 40 bed facility with 5 of those beds for homeless youth 18 to 21yrs of age and 15 of those beds are for individuals with substance abuse issues. No approvals as of yet, just in the discussion phase.

- **Recovery School Report Out:** Brian Hart along with staff from Trinity and corning Community College visited a recovery High School in New Jersey. They have a halfway house that is attached to the school. The program serves approximately 60 kids from all over, and most reside there on the campus. The funding for treatment is paid by billing health insurances for clinical services. The Education program follows the BOCES concept, in which the child’s home
school pays for their education. This program also has music and sports activities. There is hope that a similar model can be brought here in partnership with ECSD, BOCES and others to offer a safe and sober environment for youth in recovery to stay engaged in their educational pursuits. There will be a follow-up meeting with Trinity and CCC and then invite more such as CSS Workforce NY for job/skill training. Funding is not yet available for this, but if a pilot is approved and it is done successfully, they can go to OASAS and tell them we could do better with more funding. New Jersey is taking this seriously, and they are starting early to get these kids on the right track. We know the number of kids affected through Trinity, but we don’t know the number of kids affected through the schools. If any of you are interested in being at the discussion table please email Brian Hart.

- **Lab Memo**: A memo from the Acting Medical Director of OASAS was sent to some providers instructing them that if they are doing urine samples that they had to pursue certification/licensure as a Lab or they could be fined up to $500.00 per occurrence if there was non-compliance with this DOH regulation. After a many calls to OASAS, The Lead Attorney for OASAS stated to ignore the memo and that this warranted further investigation. OASAS Administrators did not know anything about the memo sent out requiring them to be certified and licensed, but the memo was on official letterhead.

- **Rob Kent’s Message**: During a meeting he stated that for the first time OASAS is willing to give serious consideration to any proposal, even if it appears to not align with historical practices and or regulations, especially during this time with the epidemic. Be creative and keep in mind that you still need to have an established anecdotal that documents the need. There is even potential to waive a regulation, as the state writes the regulations and have the ability to change/waive them. There is no deadline, as the epidemic is not going away quickly. Chemung County is doing better than other Counties.

- **Jail Based Services Update**: Brian Hart reported that Chemung County was not amongst the 17 counties chosen to be awarded a portion of the 3.75 million to provide substance abuse services in the jail. The Committee came together and decided how to best use the money by looking at the stats on deaths in each County. Chemung County has a high rate of ER visits, and low death rate. The Counties receiving $400,000 are: Broome, Erie, Niagara, and Schenectady. The Counties receiving $200,000 are: Albany, Suffolk, Nassau, Monroe, and Oneida. The Counties receiving $156,000 are: Clinton, Jefferson, Putnam, Ontario, Columbia, Tioga (they are already doing this, maybe the money will be used to enhance their program), and Tompkins. The County receiving $56,000 is Wayne. We are not sure if this is a one-time deal or if this will be ongoing.

**Sharing by Community Members**

- No one had anything additional that they wanted to share.

The next meeting is scheduled for July 18, 2018.