Substance Abuse Committee
August 15, 2018

Present: Brian Hart, Joel Yager, Erin Doyle, Lisa Willson, Glenn Jarvis, Allison O’Dell, Desiree Rogers

Excused: Jennifer Emery, Linda Waite, Ann Domingos, Kernalia Andrews

Minutes:

Approved without changes

Director of Community Services Report – Brian Hart

  Brian Hart shared information about this CME/CEU credit class. This is not restricted to just prescribers. This is an online course is given through the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA). It helps provide practical guidance for doctors and clinicians in screening pain patients for substance use disorder risk factors before prescribing, and in identifying when patients are abusing their medications. This course uses videos that model effective communication about sensitive issues, without losing sight of addressing the pain. There is a cost for the class.

- I-Matter Festival: It was held this past weekend. Committee members spoke about their experience. There were all different types of individuals and families that attended. The Bands stopped by and spoke with the vendors that were set up. It was a good experience (very welcoming), and it was free for all those that attended. This year they had two different stages, so there was no down time between bands. This kept things moving and saved time. There were tons of volunteers from the Church as well as all walks of life. It seemed very organized and didn’t see any issues. The festival helped run a marketing campaign with commercials and the new app. If those who came to the festival downloaded the app they got free t-shirts. The last band that went on stage had a band member tell a personal story about recovery and hope. Each band had a table/tent set up and had demo’s and a meet and greet with each band member and those who attended the festival. It was well attended and it is estimated that about 5 to 10 thousand people showed up for the festival. Scott Lowmaster was all hands on, and no job was too small. The owner of the Journey Center had a booth set up. He spoke about he spent time in prison, and how he sees things today, how he stumbled upon what is successful and how all walks of life come into the Center.

- Narcan Administration Updates: Brian has received updated information from Erway Ambulance and through the month of July they have administered Narcan 57 times, with two of those being fatalities. There were a couple of repeated individuals. There were no repeat visits to the same address. They did see a lot more in Horseheads, then in the past, but Elmira still has the most. They are seeing a spike in opioids overdoses. Most of the overdoses were from the use of Heroin. They had one overdose at the Correctional Facility.
After Hour Acute Admission Access?: Committee members discussed the process after hours. They are all on “Click”. A patient comes into the ER then they are sent to mixed medical and receive and evaluation the next day. They are on a 48 hour hold. They are not admitted to New Dawn after hours due to doctor availability. New Dawn staff are in the ER more frequently to be with the patients. If the ER calls New Dawn about a patient, New Dawn staff go down to the ER within a half hour of the call. One committee member spoke about how a patient was treated that she took over from the jail. Patients deserve to be treated the same, no matter what they are in the ER for. They are coming to get help. We need to educate the medical staff. Mental Health and Substance Abuse issues show up in the ER. The medical staff went to school for physical trauma, and are not educated on the Mental Health and Substance Abuse issues.

Arnot/St. Joe’s Plan: First, there will be a full asset merger with Arnot with two physical locations. Second, they will apply for a Grant to expand the Arnot ER and close the St. Joe’s ER. The big problem is the BSU and New Dawn are staying at St. Joe’s. There is a big risk in transporting patients from Arnot to St. Joe’s. This is controversial and they need a waiver to do this plan. If the County and State agree to the waiver, then Arnot needs to step up on their assessments as the BHAT Team struggles to provide a comprehensive assessment including community based options for the psychiatrist to consider.

They are calling Brian asking him what to do. They need to have the same quality of services and social workers as the NICU.

There is work to do. Can we look at after hour admission? Do we get that many requests? Is it worth it? The biggest problem of all is how much time goes by between a request and bed availabilities.

Is there any movement to get a Navigator in the jail? No, where is the funding for it? A Navigator is needed in the jail so they have access to Medicaid. Family Services of Chemung County has Michelle Watkins (Case Manager) in the jail. She helps them receive benefits. To become a Navigator you have to attend intense three day training. There are two managed care Medicaid, one is Fedelis (1st Choice) and the other one is United Health Care (2nd Choice). It takes about an hour to work with a Navigator to apply.

Sharing by Community Members

CASA Trinity – August 30th 2018 is Overdose Awareness Day. They will be holding a vigil at 150 Lake Street with Speakers (Brian Hart, Dr. Cassetta, and Travis Barnes) at 7pm. They will have a lighting of candles and do the Walk of Hope to Wisner Park. Once they arrive at Wisner Park they will have a moment of silence. Guthrie is co-sponsoring the event this year. September 8th 2018 they are doing a Walk for Recovery to raise awareness that treatment works. This will be at Eldridge Park from 9:00am to 2:00pm. This is a free event, and RSVP’s are appreciated by going to https://www.eventbrite.com/e/walk-for-recovery-chemung-tickets-47434960243
All walkers must register, and registration starts at 9:00am.
The next meeting is scheduled for August 15, 2018.