Substance Abuse Committee
October 16, 2019

Present: Brian Hart, Tara Fethers, Glenn Jarvis, Erin Doyle, Jennifer Emery, Desiree Rogers, Linda Waite, Suzianna Fritz

Excused: Lisa Willson

Minutes:

Approved without changes

Director of Community Services Report – Brian Hart

➢ **Opioid Court – Judge Forrest Update:** Judge Forrest reached out to Brian Hart and wanted him to understand who this came all about, as Brian does not agree on the process in how this took place. Judge Forrest explained to Brian that he was serving on a Committee in NYC on the Opioid issues and met with Dennis Reilly. A few weeks later Dennis called Judge Forrest and stated that he received this money for the 6th Judicial District and wanted Chemung County to have it if they were interested. Desiree Rogers stated that an email went to all the Judicial Districts and Judge Forrest told her to apply for it. She stated that in our District only Tompkins and Chemung applied for it. One Court in each of the 10 Judicial Districts were awarded these funds.

Brian noted that during their most recent CLMHD meeting in which Dennis Reilly attended, Brian stated that he spoke up about this issue and how it went against regulations. He stated that Dennis should have had discussion in conjunction with the LGU and OASAS. He did not talk to the local LGU or the County Government. Brian stated that the response he received was that it needed to be done quickly. Brian explained that emails and phone calls can be done rather quickly to discuss things. If they are looking for a contract and a response from County Legislatures than this takes time and cannot be done quickly. Albany County has a huge need for Opioid Court and they wanted to know why they didn’t have it. The $150,000 the Courts received was from OASAS. Only Courts submitted applications, not Counties. Brian’s questions are: Do we have a need to substantiate this and are we going to use the money well.

Desiree Rogers stated that they already have double the number they were expecting. She said they have 10 and there is a need in this County. She said they had 6 individuals die in a 2 week period. Brian stated that they could have connected to existing services without this additional money. He stated that the Courts should have discussed this with Trinity and himself so that they were aware of the services provided in this community. We just don’t go after funds because they are available without discussing what is already in our community and if there really is a need. We need to come together to discuss how to solve the problems in our community. We need to make sure we are doing the correct things with what he have, instead of sub-planting of funds.
Collaboration and Discussion is needed and procedures need to be followed. We are responsible for Chemung County and we need to start communicating again. We could have done the Opioid Court without the $150,000. If the Federal Government is made aware of the Sub-planting of funds, then they will be contacting Dennis Reilly as well as the Courts who received these funds.

Other Mental Hygiene Directors are concerned about this funding was processed and distributed and are also discussing it with Albany and not with the Courts. Brian stated that he is not saying the idea of an Opioid Court is bad, it’s just that we didn’t need the $150,000 in our community to make it work. Desiree Rogers said that from what she is seeing is that individuals are getting immediate supports. She stated that when she receives a directive from the Head Coordinator and the Judge to apply for this type of funding, she follows through with it. Brian stated that he is more than willing to sit down and discuss items with the Courts. Brian stated that he is supportive of the Opioid Courts but the process that took place didn’t comply with Title 14 regulations and should have been that it is OASAS funding. Desiree Rogers stated that we can learn from this, and we want to be on board with the process. She said they will include Brian in any further funding opportunities. Desiree said that if they had not received this funding they probably would have never been able to receive the equipment and office space in the building, because they have to be compliant with the grant. She said that in a meeting with all the districts who were awarded the grant, they were told that they needed to contact their LGU (this was after they were awarded the grant).

The question was asked if there was any legal literature that defines when there is a need in the community what are the guidelines and procedures. It was stated that they go by numbers/statistics and not by anecdotal. Title 14 – NYS - There are sub-committee’s for Alcohol & Substance Abuse, Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities. These committees help determine the needs of the community. When an agency/provider wants to add a service to the community they have to have it pre-approved by the LGU, the State, the Community Services Board, as well as the committee that the service pertains to. The same goes for when an agency/provider wants to discontinue/close a service. A closure plan needs to be developed, so that everyone is aware of who are taking the clients who will no longer be receiving those services. Jennifer Emery stated that providers come to the weekly meetings for Court, and they need to answer to these providers who are partners with them in this community. They need to be aware and be part of the process. Desiree stated that she will take this information back, and they definitely want strong partnerships within the community.

- **Field Office Leadership:** Donna Stott is retiring as Director of the Field Office. They have not said what they are going to do to with this position.

- **OASAS Treatment Availability Dashboard:** OASAS has an online dashboard that lists details about all the providers. You should check out the information that they have on your agency to make sure it is accurate, because the information that they have on Trinity needs to be updated.
Sharing by Community Members

- **AIM** – The Family & Friends Support Group is starting back up.

- **Trinity** – They have walk-in evaluation hours on Monday through Friday 8:00am to 12:00pm. They also handed out a flyer about the upcoming Drug Enforcement Administration’s (DEA) Nationwide Drug “Take Back” Day on Saturday, October 26, 2019 from 10:00am to 2:00pm at the Southport Volunteer Fire Department and the West Elmira Fire Department. (Please see Attachment)

- **Family Services** – As of September 23, 2019 the Agency has decided to start a “Wait List”. They are hoping this is only temporary. They have been struggling with staffing and turn over and until they can get the staffing hired and caseloads down, they will have the wait list in place. They will automatically take Priority 1’s, but Priority 2’s & 3’s will be wait listed. They have moved intake to 9:30am and CRISIS is still available. Priority 2’s are the court mandated individuals. If you feel the individual you are working with needs to be a Priority 1 you can request to speak to a Supervisor to have that discussion. Clients just keep flowing in, and we want to provide quality care. Anyone who is wait listed is offered Care Management immediately. Once they meet face to face with their Care Manager, then the Care Manager can determine if the individual needs to be seen immediately.

The next meeting is scheduled for **November 20, 2019**.
For Immediate Release

"Don't Be the Dealer" – Turn in Your Unused Prescriptions & Other Medications

The Drug Free Community Coalition of Chemung County is pleased to announce that, as a part of their ongoing Monitor-Secure-Dispose campaign, coalition members will be supporting the Chemung County Sheriff’s Office in the Drug Enforcement Administration’s (DEA) Nationwide Drug “Take Back” Day on Saturday, October 26, 2019, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Chemung County residents are being encouraged to turn in their expired and unused prescription medications for proper disposal. Residents are asked to keep the medications in their original container with the label intact; however, they may blacken out their name. All medications (including pet), ointments and sprays are accepted. We cannot accept needles. Residents can drop off their medications at the following locations with no questions asked:

Southport Volunteer Fire Department
1001 Carl St.
Elmira, New York 14904

West Elmira Fire Department
1299 W. Water St.
Elmira, New York 14905

The Drug Free Communities Coalition works with local partners to help educate the community on safely disposing of their unused medication. If you can’t make this event medication drop boxes are located throughout the county in local hospitals, pharmacies, and police departments.

 Authorized Local Drug Collection Sites (available year-round):
Arnot Ogden Medical Center, Main Lobby, 600 Roe Ave, Elmira
Blitz Pharmacy, 485 Maple St, Big Flats
Elmira Police Dept., 317 E. Church St., Elmira, 8:30am – 4:30pm (M-F)
Gerould’s Pharmacy, 130 S Main St., Elmira
Gerould’s Pharmacy, 215 Hoffman St., Elmira
 Guthrie Corning Hospital Pharmacy, 1 Guthrie Dr., Corning, 7 am – 11 pm (Daily)
Horseheads Police Dept., 202 S. Main Street, Horseheads, 8 am – 4 pm (M-F)
St. Joseph’s Hospital, Emergency Dept., 555 St. Joseph’s Blvd., Elmira
West Elmira Police Dept., 125 S Water St, Elmira, 8:30am – 4:30pm (M-F)

For further information, you can go to www.chemungsheriff.net or www.dea.gov. If you’re interested in joining the Drug Free Community Coalition please contact CASA-Trinity Chemung Prevention at (607) 846-3947.