Present: Brian Hart, Lori Murphy, Christina Sirois, Melissa Stafford, Dayle-Lynne Williams-Fedoriw, Johanna Webster, Diana Durfee, Jennifer Emery, Kellie Traugott-Knoll, Mary Vosburg

Excused: Dina O’Herron, David McCausland

Minutes:
Approved without changes.

Introductions:

Suicide Prevention Updates – Brian Hart:

➢ Updates on the Walk: The Virtual Walk took place last month. Hope Garden was replanted by a professional landscaper the day before the virtual walk was scheduled on Saturday September 26, 2020 at 11am. The landscaper did a nice job and totally changed the look. He put the stones in the letters and placed flowers out and around the word HOPE. Brian said he had someone tell him they enjoyed the garden and it was inspirational. The recommendation for the hashtag got some responses. It looks like 8 to 10 people posted using #chemungsuicideprevention2020, some were on Facebook and others elsewhere. There was lots of positive feedback from individuals as well as OMH.

Director of Community Services report - Brian Hart:

➢ Budget Withholds: Because of the continuation of the Covid-19 pandemic, the financial impact has been devastating. The withholds from OMH and OASAS are for the 3rd and 4th quarters. They are not withholding from housing, because they do not want individuals to be homeless. If there is going to be any kind of Federal stimulus, it will not be until after the election. It will be impossible to spend the money by the end of the year unless they give everyone an extension. If they do not give us the funds, then the withhold will become a cut in the funding. The implications for 2021 funding are not impressive. You all need to be looking at your programs fiscally as most likely there will be cuts for the 1st and 2nd quarter. This will impact staff and services to individuals. The State wants to withhold 20%, but want you to provide 100% of the services. You will be providing 100% of the services to the 80% of the funding that you will be receiving from the State.

➢ Cancel November Meeting: Brian will not be available for the November 18, 2020 meeting and stated that they could hold the meeting without him, or cancel the November meeting and have the next meeting on December 16, 2020. The Committee Members chose to cancel the November meeting with no objections.
Possible Merger: (OMH) Office of Mental Health and (OASAS) Office of Addiction Services and Supports last talked about a possible merger back in 2015. This is likely due to the financial stress created by the Covid-19 pandemic. Brian thinks this would be combining at the State Level, and not locally. This gives them an opportunity to find efficiencies and does create some challenges with union employees, as it would take some time to reduce staffing. As for the Law and Regulations of both organizations, it would take several years to change them and align the regulations. A committee member stated they are most likely looking for those who will retire, and reduce staffing by attrition, as other agencies are doing the same thing. Some things do not always mesh, but down the road, this could be a benefit. With outpatient clinics, they may do similar things, but the regulations are totally different, and Mental Hygiene Laws would have to be changed.

Police Reinvention Committee: Due to an Executive Order from the Governor’s Office requiring all Counties to form a committee to address reform of the local approaches to issues that have happened both within the State as well as across the nation, Chemung County has formed this committee. Brian has been asked to join this committee late in the game, along with representatives from law enforcement, the District Attorney’s office, community stakeholders and the County Executive. A committee member stated that they were glad that Brian is at the table, so they can learn how to de-escalate a situation and help with some of the ER issues.

730 Updates on Restorations: This references the competency exams that two independent doctor’s assess an individual on their mental health and/or developmental disabilities to see if they are deemed incompetent for restoration. An individual can be placed in the care of the State for a very long time. This is very costly now that the County is responsible for 100% of the bill instead of 50%. It is $1000.00 a day for restorative care in NYS. In the past, the State has never been cooperative on giving updates on the individuals in their care even though the County was paying half of the bill. Now that we are paying 100% of the bill maybe, they think we are entitled to updates. This is new and improvements still need to be made on communication of information. One of the first cases was a Chemung County Case in which they informed Brian that the individual has in in Forensic Placement but he had already been transferred out on a 2PC 4 days prior to EPC.

599.10 Clinic Regulations: There has been a change, which allows the prescribers progress notes to act as a treatment and treatment plan update. OMH is not clear how that will work in an electronic medical record that does not distinguish a progress not as such. Not sure how you would single it out in a record review. The Treatment Plan is a 30-day requirement only for Medicaid, and can be signed by many disciplines other than a Doctor, and reviewed annually, as documented in the progress notes. This may benefit those who need just medication management.
Sharing by Community Members:

- **Question** – A committee member asked Brian if he has a good contact for OPWDD. There is an issue with overlap with care management, as they had one flagged initially and now they have another one. They believe it is a communication issue with OPWDD once the individual has been accepted into OPWDD services. They want to make sure they are notified of when an individual has been accepted under OPWDD services and when they will start those services so they can stop billing so there is no more overlap in services. Brian gave contact information.

  The next meeting is scheduled for December 16, 2020.