Mental Health Sub-Committee
February 19, 2020

Present: Brian Hart, Melissa Stafford, Lisa Daley, Mary Kay Diakite, Christina Sirois, Kellie Traugott-Knoll, Lori Murphy, Katrina Stanton, Tina O’Herron, Heather Holmes, Natasha Killough

Excused: Jennifer Emery, Rebecca Robertshaw, Dina O’Herron, Johanna Webster

Minutes:
Approved without changes.

Introductions:

Suicide Prevention Updates – Brian Hart:

- Updates on the Walk: There was great attendance at the Committee meeting last week. Assignments were given out to people so that they could seek out donations for the walk event. They have a list of 25 to 30 vendors that normally donate. Not all the vendors have been spoken for yet, if you are interested in assisting with donation, please see Brian. T-Shirts are being pickup up tomorrow from Rainbow Lettering. If you would like to assist in the t-shirt folding day on March 24th please let Brian know, as there will be approximately 1700 to inspect and fold. Looking for volunteers for T-Shirt Distribution day which will be on Thursday April 30th 7am to 7pm. There is a sign-up sheet for times that are available, please contact Brian. Open registration begins next month on the website and will close on April 17, 2020. On April 25th (Saturday) they are looking for volunteers to do some weeding and planting flowers in the Hope Garden at Eldridge Park on the opposite side of the lake from the carousel. If you are interested, please contact Brian. On the day of the Walk, there are more specific sign ups, such as the whip building, selling raffle tickets, selling coffee and donuts, selling merchandise (sweat shirts, teddy bears, bracelets, umbrellas, etc.), assisting at the selfie station, assisting the food vendor with lunch distribution, set up and tear down. The whip building will be set up the day before the event. Brian will be doing a live spot on Wink 106 sometime before the walk. They are also putting an ad on the electronic billboards on Water Street and College Avenue. The commercials are already set for tv/radio. This is crunch time. Brian shared fliers for the Walk-A-Mile in My Shoes Event coming up Saturday May 2, 2020 at Eldridge Park. You can pre-register starting next month on the website. They hand out a trophy to the largest group, so get your people together and pre-register next month. Please see Attachment A. JH Design has been doing all the printing of the flyers, tickets, billboard design etc.

OMH Commissioner Sullivan recognized that suicide is a problem throughout NYS. He has recommended that if they are inpatient that they are to have a discharge plan and need to connect with family. In the discharge plan the
individual will have an appointment with a trained suicide care provider within 24 hours after they have been discharged. If you want more on Suicidal Prevention Care, go to the website.

**Director of Community Services report - Brian Hart:**

- **3 to 5 Campaign** - This is a State wide campaign to gain support from the community for increased rates for the next 5 years. Local aid has fallen by 5% annually since the fiscal year of 2012. It has been 10 years since the State provided a cost-of-living adjustment. There is a huge workforce issue which makes it so agencies are not being able to meet the demands for services in their communities. Please see Attachment B.

There is going to be a 10% cut from OMH and OASAS on Administration costs. This means that State Mandated Services will be running on less money.

- **Text – Join37352 (msging)** – This is new and you will then start receiving regular positive messages about suicide prevention.

- **OLP Support Services, CPST, and PSR Services EZ-PAR - Update:** The State has renamed old services to say they are new services. There are 4 agencies who want to provide these services (Glove House, Hillside Children’s Center, Pathways, Inc., and Children’s Home of Wyoming). Glove House came and presented to the Community Services Board (CSB) and the Board voted it down, as they do not think it is sustainable and their expenses/revenue came out even – which is questionable due to the fact that Pathways, Inc. lost $100,000.00 last year on this service. Hillside Children’s Center put in the most extensive proposal and also decertified themselves to service Chemung County as well as a few other Counties. Pathways, Inc. lost $100,000.00 last year and the rates are decreasing, but they are still interested. As for Children’s Home of Wyoming, Brian cannot see their application, so he doesn’t know what is in their proposal. Brian is questioning why they are interested in this service when the rates are decreasing not increasing and they will lose money. They are also having staffing issues and those who are approved do not have the proper staffing to provide the service.

**Sharing by Community Members:**

- **Nothing to Share.**

**The next meeting is scheduled for March 18, 2020.**

Please see attachments below:
Please join us for the 15th Annual

Walk a Mile in My Shoes

More common than you think. More preventable than you know!

May 2nd, 2020

9 am On-The-Spot registration opens

11am Walk starts

Eldridge Park - Elmira, New York

A $15 donation provides a T-shirt and lunch while supplies last

Live performance by musical group

Vitamin L

Great raffle prizes!

More information at www.walkamile.net
or call: 607.737.5501
Nonprofit coalitions from across New York stand together in an historic coalition to call on the State to invest in a 3% increase on contracts and rates for the next 5 years for the survival of the sector.

Human service nonprofits provide vital services, including after-school programs, supportive housing, homeless services, job training, substance abuse disorder/addiction and mental health services to millions of New Yorkers annually.

Human services funding at the State has been slashed by 26% since 2008, resulting in rates lower than in 1980. The State continues to expect nonprofits to do more with less, but the sector cannot continue to provide quality services to communities without fair funding.

**fast facts:**

- **Human services local aid has fallen by 5% annually since FY12.** This historic disinvestment is unsustainable and has a direct impact on the quality and quantity of vital services available in every community.
- **60%** of the workforce qualifies for some form of public assistance.
- **68%** of NY nonprofits anticipate not being able to meet the demands for services by their communities.
- **39%** of New York human services organizations have less than three months of cash on hand.
- **10 years** since the state last provided a cost-of-living adjustment.
- **The human services workforce, upwards of 800,000 workers in New York State, bear the brunt of this disvestment.** Because wages have remained stagnant due to a lack of funding, the average human services worker is living at or below the poverty line.

The State should not be using tax payer dollars to exacerbate the gender pay gap and create poverty level jobs. New Yorkers deserve qualified workers and consistent services, but with low and stagnant wages, turnover rates in parts of the sector are upwards of 40 percent. Continuing to ignore this workforce has a detrimental impact on the economy and our communities.

The State relies on nonprofits for a broad range of essential services, programs that touch the lives of every New Yorker. The State must restore critical funding to human services programs and invest in the workers who are the backbone of the economy and local communities.

**Commit to the 3-FOR-5 investment to ensure that human services and the New Yorkers they serve can thrive!**