Mental Health Sub-Committee
April 15, 2020

Present: Brian Hart, Dina O'Herron, Jennifer Emery, Johanna Webster, Lori Murphy, Christina Sirois, Rebecca Robertshaw, Lisa Dailey, Ellen Toppings, Laurie Wert, Mike Stevenson, Heather Holmes.

Excused:

Minutes:

Approved without changes.

Introductions:

Suicide Prevention Updates – Brian Hart:

➤ Updates on the Walk: Brian stated that the Walk has been postponed to Saturday September 26, 2020. He was successful in moving all of the components to that date such as: vendors-Journey Center/Vitamin L etc. They are in a good place with everything right now. Volunteers have been collecting many gifts for the raffles. They have purchased a large flat screen TV for the raffle. They also have $1000.00 gift cards from both Sam's Club and Walmart. Brian has been struggling with Lowe's (and their plant vendor) for plants to put in the garden at Eldridge Park. They usually get the same type of plant and the same color. As of right now, it looks like they may be the same type of plant, just not the same color. Brian made changes/updates on the website (forms and information). The Facebook Page has also been updated.

Director of Community Services report - Brian Hart:

➤ COVID-19 – Brian asked everyone that was present to give an update on their agency.

EPC – In the adult inpatient unit, there have been no positive cases. They wear masks, patients from the two buildings have been separated, and they stay in their own buildings. They are also eating separately, and the patients understand the reason for it. Admissions are still coming in as well as discharging patients. They also have a quarantine unit in case they have any positive cases. They will start taking staffs temperatures tomorrow. In the outpatient services, they have staff mostly working from home, except those how give medication injections. This is because they patient needs to come in to see a doctor and receives the injection. For other patients they are doing telehealth. In care management, they are seeing that the children are starting to struggle. Single parents are struggling with structure and school work. Children's Respite is open, so please use as a resource. Doctor and staffing have changed and they are trying to do telehealth, but are still doing some face-to-face. They have a few PPE’s and they check on individuals as needed.
**Glove House** – We are doing well, and continue to not allow visitors in our Group Homes. The Counties have stopped any visits for the children. They are not going out in the community, but do go out for walks that are supervised by staff so they ensure social distancing. They are taking staff’s temperatures and asking questions. As of right now, they are good with PPE’s. They have even had donations of fabric masks. Virtual learning has just started for the children, and they are getting a lot of support with this.

**Family Services** – The CAC is operational, but there are less reports coming in. They are screening staff, but have limited PPE’s (masks/gloves). They did have a small donation given to them. The Clinic has been contacting people via phone/telehealth (individual & group). There have been a mixture of staff onsite/at home/and both. They will continue to do intake with clients who show up at the clinic. They do have some people who are not participating in their sessions, but overall the phone/zoom have been a huge success. Trinity just took a Thermometer over to our Water Street Clinic and now they will be taking staff’s temperatures. They also hooked them up with some PPE’s. Crisis is continuing to receive calls and they are going out in the field to address them.

**Catholic Charities** – They just received a surprise shipment of hand sanitizer. They are doing well, and have had donations of fabric masks. They have also been supplied with surgical masks from the Emergency Management Office. The admissions people have been laid off, but they are using other staff to do the work. They have not had any issues with the staff. They have had huge impact on the homeless shelter and it has been a challenge. The numbers are up and they currently have 9 in the shelter and 54 placed in the motel. They are not practicing social distancing and not following the rules. They have had to relocate a couple of people to different Counties, as they were asked to leave. They have had a couple of hot MH cases. Food is being taken to the motel, and they meet with a case manager more than one time a day.

**Capabilities** - Staff is mostly working remotely from home 30 hours a week and they all check in once a week. They are utilizing telehealth. As for PPE’s, they have their upholstery department making fabric masks from their homes for everyone. They are trying to keep people engaged as well as they can.

**Arbor Housing** – Staff are working remotely from home. They are reaching out to clients on a weekly basis. The masks that they ordered are on back order. There has been many MH issues over the phone.

**BSU** – They have been having daily updates with management. Patients are being quarantined if they are tested for COVID-19, until they receive the test results. If they are positive, they stay quarantined and if negative, they are no longer quarantined. New patients that are admitted have to wear a mask for 48 hours. They are working on social distancing, providing education, and working in smaller groups. They are screening staff every day at the beginning of their shift and half way through their shift. The patients are screened three times a day. They are stocked with PPE’s. One of the doctors does telehealth on the unit, and the other doctor is on sight.
AspireHopeNY – They are up and running remotely, and are supporting families via phone and video. They are doing support groups on zoom. Getting masks has been a challenge. It has been challenging for some people to set up the technology, as they are not familiar with technology of today.

AIM – They have been having good luck with ordering large quantities of masks through Motion Industries on College Ave. Their number is 734-2158 and the contact person is Jason Snyder Jason.Snyder@motion-ind.com

Brian asked if there have been any problems or challenges. It was mentioned that the children are having a more difficult time. Everything is on hold, and their staff have been instructed to get the children out as much as possible.

Brian asked if there have been any staffing issues. It was mentioned that two of their staff had been exposed. Brian stated that if someone is exposed to a positive person, they are to be tested and self-quarantine until the results of the test come in. If it comes back negative then they can return to work, if positive, then they stay in quarantine for 14 days. The Department of Health has been a great resource on how to handle these things. Essential staff are trying to meet the needs and demands.

Local Plan – The official date for the local plan has been pushed out to August due to COVID-19. Brian has started to tweak the plan, but is holding off on finishing it to see if any issues arise from the effects of COVID-19. Brian said one of the other committees want to add something on the technology infrastructure so that people have easy access and free access in the future. It does get us thinking out of the box. Keeping in touch via phone/video does have a downside, as you miss all the visual cues from how the entire body is reacting (body language). Those who are stable would do well with phone/video even part of the time.

Brian asked if anyone had any other thoughts/ideas they wanted to address in the plan. No one had anything else to add. Brian stated he would keep moving forward on the plan and doing some revisions and leave some open for any COVID-19 related issues.

Sharing by Community Members:

Brian - He wants everyone to watch their mobile billing, as he has been hearing mixed information on rates either being given at a reduced rate or rates staying the same. He stated that he was told by BC/BS that there would be a 5 to 10% reduction. He hopes they have been informed by the State that they cannot do that.

The next meeting is scheduled for May 20, 2020.