Present: Brian Hart, Lori Murphy, Christina Sirois, Melissa Stafford, Dayle-Lynne Williams-Fedoriw, Jennifer Emery, Lori Wert, Rebecca Robertshaw, Erica Robinson, Jennifer Dodge, Dina O’Herron, Melissa Streeter, Diana Durfee, Kate Lewis, Jeff Eaton

Excused: Johanna Webster

Minutes:

Approved without changes.

Introductions:

Suicide Prevention Updates – Brian Hart:

➢ Updates: The Committee met last week and made a major decision. Due to Covid-19 they will not be doing the Walk-A-Mile event at Eldridge Park this year, they are looking at doing a drive-thru event at Chapel Park in Southport. They are still looking at May 1st as the date, and it will start at 9am. Register online for a t-shirt, and when you drive through you will also receive a “Hope” flag and “Hope” magnet. They have some details to work out with the Town of Southport, and are hoping to move forward. T-Shirt Distribution Day is changing as well. It will be at the Journey Center/Church and it will be a drive-thru event as well, to keep everyone safe. More detail to follow as to date and time.

Director of Community Services report - Brian Hart:

➢ State Aid Proposal: In the Governor’s budget proposal there will be a modification to the 20% withhold. The 20% withhold for OASAS State Funding has been going on sense the third quarter of 2020 and continues. The State has allowed each local DCS to determine where the withhold will occur, except for Housing. The State said that they did not want to see anyone evicted so there would not be any cuts to housing. The Governor’s proposal is that the 20% withhold will become a 5% cut with reconciliation for 2020 and 2021 to occur at the end of 2021. The 5% cut will go retroactive to the 3rd quarter of 2020. This new proposal will only occur if NYS receives 6 Billion Dollars from the Federal Government. It has been mentioned that 15 Billion Dollars could potentially be coming to NYS. This Federal Funding would not be coming until the end of this year. It was mentioned in the Developmental Disabilities meeting that one of the providers were told they would be receiving 15%. It was advised to not spend it, until we know for sure that NYS will be receiving at least 6 Billion from the Federal Government. 

➢ Merger (OAMHS): The new name if the merger happens will be “Office of Addiction and Mental Health Services”. The easy part of the merger will be changing the name and consolidating administrative staff and field offices. The
difficult challenge will be dealing with unions (lay-offs), and making sure the Regulations and Laws of OASAS and OMH align, and this will take several years.

➢ **Crisis Stabilization Centers:** These Centers will be for both Substance Abuse and Mental Health. Not sure how many Centers there will be, but they will be open 24 hours a day 365 Days a year. They will not be at hospitals, as the goal is to keep them out of the ER, and will be open to law enforcement for pick-ups involving substance abuse. There are pilots in NYC with a potential to work off these models. There are still a lot of questions pertaining to billable services (rates/reimbursements and staffing) and how this will affect the current mobile CRISIS program.

➢ **Article 9-Neglect of Self Care:** This is a new added component to Article 9 under Involuntary Admissions. This will be a major change to pick-up orders. This is when an individual is doing harm to himself/herself pertaining to food, clothing, and personal needs. This can open up Pandora’s Box with our homeless population. There are people who choose to wear shorts in cold weather, and there are people who do not have the money to purchase new clothing. Just because someone looks disheveled does not mean the individual needs to have a pick-up order done on them.

**Sharing by Community Members:**

➢ **Family Services** – There are two new groups at Family Services. The first group is a Duel Diagnosis Group, which currently has low referrals. This has a curriculum, clinicians, and is for adults who have been clinically diagnosed with both. The second group is a Wellness Group, which currently has low referrals. This will deal with health and well-being such as smoking sensation etc. Brian will share the fliers with everyone.

➢ **EPC - Social Connection** – In March they will be starting a Native Spirituality Group. This is a Learning Group in which they learn about science, history, and researching different topics. They also have a Book Group for avid readers. Brian will share the fliers with everyone.

Care Management is changing on March 8, 2021, for mental health providers. They will be providing a list soon of those who are specialty Health Home Plus providers. They will only be working with those clients who have the highest needs. This will only occur for the adult side, and children will probably change over in one to two years. You need to document that they have not met their goal or are continuing to work on the goal in order to keep the clients services. The State will save 8 to 10 Million by not serving the individuals with lower needs. EPC has not yet submitted a letter as they have some other steps to complete, and will need the local LGU’s approval.

The next meeting is scheduled for **April 21, 2021.**