

Mental Health Sub-Committee
June 16, 2021

Present: Brian Hart, Lori Murphy, Christina Sirois, Melissa Stafford, Dina O’Herron, Kate Lewis, Ellen Topping, Judith Malik, Kellie Traugott-Knoll, Mary Vosburg, Jennifer Emery

Excused:

Minutes:

Approved without changes.

Introductions:

Suicide Prevention Updates – Brian Hart:

- **Updates:** The Drive Thru event took place at Chapel Park. They had 381 people register for the event and 337 people picked up their T-Shirts and came to Chapel Park. There were enough volunteers to mark the one-mile route and hand out the flags and magnets. The official start time was 10:00am, but most arrived and were gone by 9:30am. It was a successful event, as they raised \$7,830.00. The expenses were \$289.00 for advertising, \$2,226.00 for Flags & Magnets, \$4,600.00 for T-Shirts, \$100.00 for Staff T-Shirts, for a total of \$7,215.00. Compared to previous years, we usually have \$60,000 to \$65,000 come in and spend \$40,000 on the event. State funding is \$7,000.00 each year. We now have \$160,000 in our account with the Community Foundation. Our expenses for the year are around \$15,000 to \$20,000 as we sponsor the Compeer Miniature Golf, hosting websites and upgrades, and purchasing merchandise to hand out at health/wellness fairs around the County. The 15th Anniversary T-Shirts have been saved for the next In-person event, hopefully in 2022. Now that things are starting to open back up, we can start getting back out to different events/health fairs and handing out merchandise.

Director of Community Services report - Brian Hart:

- **Future Meetings in Person?:** Due to the Governor lifting COVID-19 restrictions, Brian asked the committee members if anyone had any objections to returning the Committee Meeting to In-Person meetings. If you are vaccinated you do not need to wear a mask during the meeting. None of the Committee members had any objections, so Brian stated that starting August 18, 2021, all the Mental Health Committee meetings will be In-Person at the DSS/HRC Building – 425 Pennsylvania Ave., Elmira, NY 14904 at 11:30am in ROOM 319.
- **OMH Transformation Report:** At EPC for 2017, there were 104 adult beds available, and now in 2021 there are only 47 beds available with an average stay of 163 days. Other facilities have lower numbers of beds available with even lower average lengths of stays. As for children beds, EPC had 48 beds and now they have 12 beds with an average stay of 22 days. Will there be any future cuts? There has been a push Statewide to cut the number of adult beds,

but not any children's beds. As for reinvestments, the report stated that for Housing, 31 additional units have been added for supportive housing. They have added 14.35 staff to the Mobile Integration Unit, they expanded the Adult Clinic by 5.45 FTE's, and they expanded the children's clinic by 1.5 FTE's, and expanded the CRISIS Respite by 12.5 FTE's. Brian stated the CRISIS utilization has been down lately, and would like everyone to remind others that this is available.

- **Families First:** Brian said that Families First is for any child going into Foster Care, they will attempt to push into a family of origin. The assessment is to be done by QI (Qualified Individual) within 30 days of placement. The QI is through contracted entities throughout the State. This is supposed to start in September. Some Counties do not have any QI's while other Counties have many. Family Services is a QI provider in Chemung County. They have received nothing on who the QI's are going to be paid. It has been said that they will use CFTSS rates but they are not high enough to sustain the program. Using these low rates might mean there will be no providers, but the State says they are going forward. The State established who the QI agencies are by who submitted a letter of interest for an application. The State said they are not adding anymore. This is all coming from NYS OCFS and leaving it on DSS Commissioner's to find QI's. If they are allowed to use the Assessment Rates for upstate NY, they will be able to charge \$51.25 per 15-minute segment of an assessment. If they have to use another rate, they are much lower and is just not viable.
- **Other news:** Pathways is a new Care Management in Chemung County for adults and children. They are only doing regular care management, not health home plus. The SPOA/SPOE Coordinator will share this information, and reach out to Pathways to see what their status is on the onboarding process.

Sharing by Community Members:

- **Arnot Health** – Dr. Rivera will be joining the outpatient practice in July. Dr. McKenzie is leaving will be leaving the ER service in July and Dr. Islam will be her replacement.
- **EPC** – Dr. Louie will be joining adult inpatient.

The next meeting is scheduled for August 18, 2021.

**IN PERSON - DSS/HRC Building – 425 Pennsylvania Ave, Elmira, NY 14904
ROOM 319**