Mental Health Sub-Committee  
August 18, 2021

Present: Brian Hart, Lori Murphy, Christina Sirois, Melissa Stafford, Dina O'Herron, Kate Lewis, Glenn Jarvis

Excused: Jennifer Emery, Erica Robinson

Minutes:

Approved without changes.

Introductions:

Suicide Prevention Updates – Brian Hart:

- Updates: They are trying to set up some Safe TALK and Youth Mental Health First Aid trainings. Safe TALK and ASSIST have to be done “In-Person” and it makes it difficult because of COVID. The Youth Mental Health First Aid does not have to be in-person. The days/times will be posted on the web page “WalkAMile.net”. You need to mark your calendars because Friday September 10, 2021 is World Suicide Prevention Day. The plan is to encourage everyone to light a candle at 8pm. We are also encouraging everyone who has a t-shirt from any walk-a-mile event from the past to wear it and take a photo and post it on the Facebook page and tag walk-a-mile. On Saturday November 20, 2021, it is International Suicide Survivor’s Day. They are putting things together for this and will be posting information on the website and Facebook page.

Director of Community Services report - Brian Hart:

- Downtown Revitalization Anchor: St. Joe’s Healthcare Campus Phase 1: Brian had shared that there are plans by Arnot to revamp the St. Joe’s campus including mental health and substance abuse services in a multi-phase project. Brian is meeting with their leadership tomorrow to discuss more details.

- Trinity Proposal: They are presenting a proposal to the CSB today. They received a grant a few months ago. They will be co-locating mental health services and substance abuse services at their current location, as they occupy three floors in the building. This will be a clinic open to all and they cannot cherry pick who they want to serve. Brian does not think a resolution has been done about co-locating separate doors. Their plan is to eventually integrate the services. They will need to contract with others for services, and Brian said he will not support having two CRISIS Teams. It will be interesting to see how this all comes together. If this is approved, then it will be easy for clients to access who need the services in both areas as they will be in the same building. A committee member asked if releases will need to be signed and Brian said that they will be under the same umbrella agency and they will not need permissions to speak to each other. Brian stated that there will be more to come and if anyone is interested in reading the CSB minutes they are posted on the Chemung County website.
Recovery Options Made Easy (ROME) - HCBS: Brian said he received an email from a coordinator that OPWDD is starting a program at ARC. He explained in the email that they will need to contact the LGU to see if these services are actually needed, as we already have Catholic Charities, Family Services and Pathways as HCBS providers in Chemung County. Do we really need another provider? We do not want to put other providers out of business. There is a meeting set up for this Friday to discuss the program and the need in the community. A committee member stated they had a company out of NYS looking for data, and she did not respond and give them any information. They have not reached out lately. If she gets anymore emails she will forward them to Brian.

Waitlist Request: Brian stated that if your agency has a waitlist of individuals who need your services, please keep him informed. If someone has been on your waitlist for a long time, you might want to contact them and see if they are receiving services they need from a different agency, and can be taken off your list. Your agency needs to reflect on potential needs you may have and what you need to do to fix them. You may need to think out-of-the-box to help solve the issues. In Supportive Housing once the individual has become stable, they need to be released in to regular housing, so that you can bring in individuals who have a need for Supportive Housing. You should also be looking at your staffing pattern. Eventually the State will be moving to payments based on outcomes. A committee member asked Brian if there are waitlists in Chemung County and he said yes, in housing, clinics, case management, and periodically ACT. Agencies should be managing their waitlists and contacting the individuals on those lists. Agencies need to be thinking about what they should be doing differently operationally.

OMH: Brian was contacted by OMH in Albany recently as they were noticing a higher percentage of mental health issues in those who are being arrested. They are offering a block grant with one-time use of funds to decrease the amount of mental health issues, as it will help the police know how to cope with individuals with mental health issues. The application for this needs to be done by the end of this month. Brian said it is not big money, as this goes along with Police Reform that was submitted to the Governor's Office. Brian stated that we could add a Peer Consultant to the CRISIS Team. This money would assist with the initial startup, and then the following years could be supported by County funds. We could provide trainings for inmates and correctional officers via videos that are provided. We could send a couple of Sheriff Deputies and Mental Health Clinicians to trainings that OMH provides for collaboration. Another idea is providing IPADS to the Elmira Police Department/Elmira Heights Police Department/Sheriff Office for a mobile CRISIS and pay for the data plans.

October Meeting: Brian stated that he will not be available on the 3rd Wednesday of October for our next meeting. He asked the committee members if they would be able to meet on the second Wednesday of October which is October 13, 2021. None of the committee members had an issue, and agreed to the date change for October.
Sharing by Community Members:

- **Mental Health Court** – A committee member asked for an update on Mental Health Court. Brian stated that it was put on hold because of COVID-19. Court personnel attended a training up near Syracuse, and the pandemic halted its progression. In Mental Health Court it would help teach individuals who are arrested that going to jail is not in their best interest, and help them to prevent future arrests.

The next meeting is scheduled for **October 13, 2021** via ZOOM.