Substance Abuse Committee
September 16, 2020

Present: Brian Hart, Erin Doyle, Nicholas Moffe, Glenn Jarvis, Bailey O’Rourke, Desiree Rogers, Dayle Williams-Fedoriw, Katie Hicks, Jennifer Emery

Excused:

Minutes:

Approved without changes.

Director of Community Services Report – Brian Hart

- **Regional SOR Proposal:** Brian stated that he has met with Ann Domingo’s to go over CASA’s application to apply for this Grant. It will be a regional submission with two leads. They are looking at the following counties in the southern tier: Tioga, Chemung, Steuben, and Livingston. They will also include a few counties to the north. This proposal is debatable as to what regions it will cover. OASAS are not defining regions, so they are not sure if the proposal will go through or not. They have a short turn around on this as they have only four more weeks to submit the proposal. Monroe County did not have a lot of interest in this proposal. Brian will keep everyone posted on what OASAS decides.

- **OASAS Shut Down Requirements:** Brian wanted to share information from a document that came out on August 25, 2020 from OASAS. It states that any program that has a confirmed COVID-19 case, must do contact tracing, and stop all in person contact with clients. This means that there will be no face-to-face, and it will be all online. Brian stated that in his opinion we need to follow this is the Department of Health guidance which would be to notify them, quarantine anyone with direct exposure and do thorough cleaning of the building. An example was given: a person tests positive and comes into the agency on Monday. All those people he/she had direct contact on Monday should have to be quarantined, the office area cleaned. Those staff that did not have direct contact with him/her or were not in the office on Monday should be able to work and provide services to others. The Department of Health in charge of COVID-19 regulations/guidelines/protocols.

A committee member stated that she does not think they are considering all the logistics involved and have not thought through everything. Another committee member stated that they refer to the Department of Health, follow their guidelines, and have not had any issues with COVID-19.

Brian stated that this is like a spider-web effect, and you should only be quarantining if you were “directly” exposed to a person who tested positive for COVID-19. Otherwise, it could get totally out of control on how many people are quarantined.
A committee member is concerned with individuals lying about either being positive or being exposed to someone testing positive, and exposing everyone in their building.

A committee member stated that she supports Brian’s decision to advise everyone to follow the Department of Health’s guidelines. We are all learning as we roll with this, and fixing problems as we go.

A committee member spoke about sharing services with different agencies in the same building and each agency having different protocol. Stating the State wants everyone to wear masks at all times unless you are sitting at your desk, while the County has the 6 feet apart rule. Also, when doing drug screenings each agency uses different guidelines. In addition, when dealing with the Court, each Judge dictates what they will do (in-person vs virtual) and what they require per PPE.

- **Linda GW**: Brian wanted to inform the committee that Linda has opted to stop attending the Committee and she wanted to thank everyone and to let you know that she will miss everyone. Committee members stated that she is a good role model, they enjoyed working with her, and she will be missed.

**Sharing by Community Members**

- **Salvation Army** – Brian shared that the Salvation Army is waiting on a waiver for Stanley Johns who they hired to oversee Our House. Salvation Army also has a new Major – Major Stanley Newton.

- **New Dawn** – They have now added Vivitrol for MATs.

- **Trinity Update on Services** – They started doing tele-health services April 1, 2020. They have been concerned about group sessions. Mid to late June they have been slowly returning to in-person sessions. Everyone is screened at the entrance and referred to the Department of Health if they show signs/symptoms of COVID-19. They are still doing ZOOM group sessions and the in-person sessions are for the high-risk individuals. Counselors have had to establish Zoom rules, as some individuals have never learned appropriate social norms. Some like the ZOOM meetings because they can smoke during the sessions. Others who have DWI’s do not have to worry about finding a ride to their meeting because they can do it right from home. The ZOOM meetings work very well with individuals who are highly motivated. Brian mentioned that having a second staff person in on the ZOOM group sessions could be beneficial if they are trained in the ZOOM technology. They can take a person out of the group session and into their own individual room to speak to them privately about an issue. The “Break out” rooms for ZOOM do cost more. They are doing drug screenings on site now. They cannot screen frequently, it has to be in conjunction with an appointment. There is a nurse on site, but the providers are using tele-health/virtual, and not in-person. Active enrollment right now is 439 outpatient, 113 continuous care, and 98 in-take. In August, they served 500 individuals. The numbers are down, but within the past month, evals have picked up. Our outreach programs are now open, and protocols
have been put in place for transportation. We are back to providing services in the jail three times a week. The numbers are staying steady, but Bail Reform has had a huge impact on services being provided in the Tioga County jail. The Club House has returned to in-person in late July. Before that, the staff were busy delivering meals to the children. They are open Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday 12Noon to 8pm. In August the number of children attending was down. EOP has a thermal temperature-reading machine that is utilized and it verbally tells you your body temperature. Now that schools are open, they should start seeing an increase in numbers in the afterschool activities. We give transportation, but there are COVID guidelines for transportation (not as many can be in the van). They now have a full time maintenance person and the building smells clean because all you can smell is bleach. In the Clinic, numbers were down because the groups were impacted, but now that they are seeing in-person, individual sessions and orientations have increased.

There have been an increase in positive drug screens for Trinity and Drug Court.

A committee member asked if there was any word on changing Bail Reform, and the answer was that nothing is happening to change that right now.

The next meeting is scheduled for October 21, 2020 in-person at the DSS/HRC Building.