Substance Abuse Committee
February 17, 2021

Present: Brian Hart, Nicholas Moffe, Glenn Jarvis, Bailey O’Rourke, Erin Doyle, Regan Parshall, Erica Robinson, Rebecca Robertshaw, Jennifer Emery, Brandon Beuter

Excused: Desiree Rogers

Minutes:

Approved without changes.

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 3rd 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 problem that arises is how does an Agency pay all of their bills on 80% of their funding, with staffing being the largest cost. 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. Question is, how do you spend it, if the money is not coming until the end of the year.

➢ 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.

➢ OCM – Office of Cannabis Management: In the Governor’s budget proposal he would like to create the Office of Cannabis Management. This would be under the Division of Alcohol and Beverage Control. The proposal does not explain exactly what this office will do, but it does say that it will create 20 Million in State Revenue and in 2 to 3 years will create 374 Million in State Revenue. This office should oversee adult legalization and medical marijuana. This has not been finalized; it is just a proposal and is subject to Legislative Approval.

➢ 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 and how this will affect the current mobile CRISIS program.

➢ **Stephen’s Law – Emergency Contact – 3/11/2021:** This is referring to OASAS providers. Starting 3/11/2021 providers who receive OASAS funding will have clients identify emergency contacts. If the client does not have any or refuses to identify any emergency contacts, they will need to document that they did not identify/or refused to identify. This is subject to more clarification from OASAS with guidelines and protocols. Providers who receive OMH funding are not obligated but would be good practice.

**Sharing by Community Members**

➢ **Helio Health (Binghamton)** – Helio is based out of Syracuse NY and used to be Syracuse Behavioral Health. They have been expanding over the years in Rochester, Utica, and Binghamton. They have been in Binghamton sense 2018 with a Detox Patient Rehab Unit. There are 50 beds, and they do walk-ins for detox, and was definitely needed in Broome County. They are currently expanding in Binghamton and adding more beds, as well as residential services. They are located in the old Broome Developmental in Building 1. It was mentioned that they have worked well with New Dawn at St. Joe’s to get patients from detox to New Dawn for admission.

➢ **CASA-Trinity** – The Elmira site had an Audit last November and after working on their corrective action plan, they now have an operating certificate for 3 years. This is a dramatic improvement from the last Audit.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 21, 2021