Present: Brian Hart, Bailey O’Rourke, Nicholas Moffe, Glenn Jarvis, Erin Doyle, Desiree Rogers, Kate Lewis, Ann Domingos, Regan Parshall

Excused: Jennifer Emery

Minutes:

Approved without changes.

Director of Community Services Report – Brian Hart

- **REACH Medical:** They are based out of Ithaca, NY. They are renting space from Southern Tier AIDS Program and are only in the office on Tuesdays. They have individuals come into the office and talk to the prescriber in Ithaca telephonically for suboxone, and they are not providing any counseling services. OASAS has created a problem as they made a policy change that is non-compliant with the law. They are now saying that anyone with a license in one county, can open up an office in a contiguous county without talking to the LGU. This goes against the laws that are currently in place. Brian asked if anyone has dealt with REACH Medical. A committee member stated that the Drug Court in Ithaca will not work with REACH and they are the most liberal Drug Court around. They have had zero success working with them. You cannot prescribe someone suboxone and not any other real services and think they are going to be successful. Brian Hart stated that he has not explored the relationship with Ithaca’s Drug Court and REACH. REACH has an 822 license and they have to adhere to the regulations. They need to be working with the Court and if they are not Albany needs to be made aware of it. Another committee member stated that REACH’s model does not align with what should be done for an individual to be successful. They are only serving a population who are not interested in treatment. Another committee member stated that REACH did not want anything to do with them a few years ago when they reached out to them. Brian stated that if anyone else hears from them or hears anything about them to let him know so he can keep everyone informed.

- **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. Brian wanted to remind those agency’s that have contracts with insurance companies that there are timelines, and if you are putting someone on a waitlist they are not in compliance with the insurance companies contract. Brian understands that there is a huge problem with workforce and this is creating the problem with the waitlist.
October Meeting: Brian stated that he will not be available on the 3rd Wednesday of October for our next meeting. He asked the committee member's 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

- AIM – Brian received an email on AIM’s ESHI application. This is a funding source for supportive housing. This only covers operations and not capital. The agency needs to come up with the capital funding. This is for Substance Abuse Supportive Housing. Do we need this type of housing in Chemung County? Yes, but The Salvation Army’s ESHI application has been approved and that included some Substance Abuse Housing. Will it be too much? The Salvation Army is still looking for capital funding at this time. We need to get people off the waitlist, and into housing. We need to remember that the bed is permanent, but once they are stabilized do they continue to need support? Once an individual is stable they need to move on, so the bed can be opened up to someone else in need of supportive housing.

- CASA Trinity – They will be presenting a proposal to the CSB today, as they received a grant a few months ago to care for people (complete care) in the community. Mental Health Article 31 will be in Chemung County. They will co-locate mental health services with substance abuse services. It will be in the building they are currently in, in which they have space of three floors of the building. Their plan is to integrate but they need to start with CCBHC.

  Two years ago, NYS DOH award them funding to build an 820. This has been a long process, but the contracts are now down and they are meeting with the State. Construction will be starting this winter in the building that currently exists, then they will break ground on the 820. This will be a Residential Treatment Facility for 30 to 90 days depending on the individual’s needs. They will receive total care, counseling and reintegration.

  Brian asked if Trinity started providing services to the Catholic Charities new housing next to the DSS building. A committee member stated that a Case Manager goes to the sight 10 hours a week. They provide group sessions for one hour a week and they are voluntary.

- Brian wanted to remind all those agencies that have funding with OASAS need to get their Budget Documents to his office quickly.

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