Mental Health Sub-Committee
February 21, 2018

Present: Brian Hart, Shannon Oakes, Melanie Rahr, April O'Laughlin, Mary Vosburgh, David McCausland, Lisa Daley

Excused: Marilyn Christofaro, Ann Heleen Smith, Cynthia Cuyle, Amy Jones, Tara McLaughlin

Minutes:
Approved without changes

Introductions:

Suicide Prevention Update—Shannon Oakes:

- **Walk A Mile Event:** Saturday May 5, 2018 at Eldridge Park. We really need to rally the troops to help that week. Will need assistance on t-shirt day, Thursday May 3, 2018 at the YWCA 7:30am to 7:00pm. If anyone can volunteer that knows excel spreadsheets it would be greatly appreciated. There will be a T-Shirt folding day here at the DSS/HRC building. Will let you when the date and time is set up. We now have our own customized Pop-up Canopy’s (2); we also have our own stage/risers. Will need assistance putting all these up.

- **Website:** [www.walkamile.net](http://www.walkamile.net) – Possibly turning it on live this week and opening registration for the Walk-A-Mile Event.

- **ASIST Training:** March 1st and 2nd at DSS/HRC building. The training is almost full (16) have a couple more openings if anyone is interested. There will be a mixed group of MSW’s and four police from the City of Elmira. Have not heard if Albany was able to provide trainers for the JET Nursing School Students. They wanted Shannon to do it the same week of the walk, so she sent an e-mail to Albany to find other trainers willing to do the training.

- **Signs of Suicide (SOS) Training:** Will be at the Elmira High School in March during the Health Class.

- **Suicide Safety for Teachers:** On March 9th 140 Teachers are signed up for this 90 minute training in the Elmira City School District. She will do one in the morning in one location and another one at a different location. This will help the district meet some of their mandates. Derrick Almay from ECSD wants to repeat this training in the summer for other district staff and also talked about doing this training for Bus Drivers and Teachers Aides.
- **Youth Mental Health First Aid Training:** A training has been set up for February 26th and 27th (2 half days). The class is full, and they will offer another class after Walk-A-Mile. The trainers have to do 3 trainings a year, so they will probably offer one in early summer and one in early fall.

- **SafeTalk:** Brian will be doing this training in Owego (Tioga County) on April 12th 2018.

- **Committee News:** The Committee met last week to talk about the Budget and Goals this year and started the preliminary planning for the Walk. They are looking at May 5th for the date of the event and will meet in February for Approval.

**Director of Community Services report - Brian Hart:**

- **Governor’s Suicide Prevention Task Force Update:** Will be finalizing our plan in the next two weeks. Brian has been in weekly communication, via phone, with the other committee members so the plan can be presented to the Governor of New York State. During the meetings/conversations Chemung County has been asked to offer opinions on different things. It's nice to know that others in the state are aware of what Chemung County is doing. It seems as if the State has already pre-determined these goals. There has been some push back on those pre-determined goals.

- **State Inpatient Admission Process:** Starting March 1, 2018 a new process started in regards to making referrals for a state bed. All referrals will be centralized in Albany. The documentation is lengthy, but the Psychiatric Centers will receive much more information on a patient. After a referral has been approved the one who referred will then fill out a shorter version, with any updated information. The Albany OMH staff has 1 to 3 days to make a decision to approve or deny a referral. This will put pressure on the BSU’s as the ER’s will not be making the referrals to a state facility. A.O.M.C. will be all set up to go with the new system on March 1, 2018. Once a referral has been approved, the individual will be assigned to the closest available bed in a state facility.

- **5.07 Plan:** With the Mental Health Law every County has to submit a plan. It’s supposed to drive the State Plan. It can be entered online and it’s now one plan instead of three plans. The state agencies read it and may take samples of reports and note them in the state plan. We don’t want to include everything in this plan, just the highest of priorities.

**Brain Storming:**

Date Points – The system we currently have tells you want you have and it is for approved services and utilization of Medicaid. We need data that shows what we need. There is no statewide data available for unmet needs.

Decrease patient caseloads for outpatient services. The average caseload for Family Services is 90 per worker. Family Services is the largest clinic in NYS
but they don’t have the funding to lower their caseloads. It would be helpful if they decreased duplicate documentation, especially with the high caseloads. This is a challenge for clinicians as they always want a full caseload, and are afraid to discharge a patient too soon. This makes it a huge challenge to keep people moving. The State’s caseloads are 60 for children and 80-85 for adults.

We need to have a pediatric Psychiatrist in our Community. Is there a Nurse Practitioner in our community that specializes in children? We do have them in our Nursing Homes to work with Geriatric patients from EPC and Family Services.

Is there a way to lower cost and way to address the children’s ACT Mobile Health for children? What about pre-emergency triage possibilities with a strong assessment and planning. We need a better way to work with Psychiatrists for outpatient services. Crisis needs help with calls about children who are having behavioral issues not mental health issues. Its youth that are acting out verses a need for an inpatient stay.

Housing – it needs to be safe and affordable and up to code. There are so many who are couch surfing or staying with grandparents and their income makes them ineligible for services. We don’t want a large waitlist for subsidized housing.

Need collaboration enhancement between the ER and outside agencies.

At our March meeting we will go over this list as well as last year’s list and vote on the top priorities.

Sharing by Community Members:

➢ No Information was shared.

⊙ The next meeting is scheduled for March 21, 2018.