Mental Health Sub-Committee
March 20, 2019


Excused: Kellie Traugott-Knoll, Christina Sirois, Dina O'Herron, Rebecca Robertshaw,

Minutes:

Approved without changes.

Introductions:

Suicide Prevention Update—Shannon Oakes:

- **Committee News:** The Broadway team from last year’s event gave Shannon back the trophy. Registration is open online at the website. We have already had 2200 page views of the website. The food has been taken care of, and the Shirts have been ordered. Need volunteers on April 1st 2019 11am to 2pm to sort and fold t-shirts. It will be here at the DSS/HRC building in room 319. We will be doing Garden Renovations and planting before the Walk at Eldridge Park. The planter boxes need to be propped up, as they have tilted back toward the ground and you can’t see the lettering. Flower planting will take place on Monday April 29, 2019. T-Shirt pick up day will be May 2, 2019 from 7am to 7pm. We will need 6 people will need to be there at all times. If you can’t stay the entire time, please contact Shannon to sign up for a period of time that you would be available. The raffle tickets are being printed and will be available for sale in April. Committee members will be selling them, and the Grand Prize this year is a Samsung Smart TV. Approximately 2200 people attended last year. They know how many lunches and t-shirts were given out, but there are some groups/individuals who don’t register for the lunch/t-shirt and just show up for the walk. You need to start getting your teams together for registration. Agency Teams need to have a team leader. CVS Management has been very supportive, and Kennedy Valve is sponsoring their team.

- **Youth Mental Health First Aid:** Had a training here at the DSS/HRC building on March 11th and 12th with great attendance. There will be another one held on May 23rd and 24th and will probably fill up. Shannon has a current Committee member interested in becoming a trainer. One is already trained but has been busy and unable to do the training. It would be nice to have another person trained down the road.

- **SafeTALK Training:** Family Services held the training in the beginning of March.
- **SOS Training:** Shannon just finished up two trainings this month at the Elmira High School the 6th and 17th.

- **Horseheads School District:** Brian set up a table on March 15th at the Horseheads Middle School on their Staff Development Day. Hopefully this will encourage the district to become involved in the Walk event.

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

- **Local Planning:** Let’s work on a plan to accomplish the 5 issues that we came up with during our February meeting.

1. Geriatric Psychiatric Services in the community/homebased –
   - There is a partnership between Family Services and Office of the Aging – they just filled a part-time position for a short term therapist, but would love to see it increase, and that would mean we would need more funding as it is not a billable service.
   - Need to review billable options as well as prescriber options.
   - Need transportation to appointments that are not covered by Medicaid, and for those who are not eligible for Medicaid.
   - Need age appropriate PEERS to spend time with the clients.
   - Need training/education for the medical community regarding the psychiatric needs of this population. OFA/LTC does training in the community, but they determine the target of the education. We can ask them to make this a target.
   - Work with Skill Nursing Facilities to increase prescribers billable service (geriatric psychiatric nurse practitioners)
   - Explore options with pharmacies to waive the blister/bubble pack fees.

2. Adolescent Children’s Unit – with a Children’s Psychiatric Specialist –
   - This is in addition to EPC. The demands exceed the supply.
   - Need Emergency Room Psych Specialist to evaluate the children.
   - If any hospital would want to open an acute unit, OMH would approve, because the State will not expand. This can be costly due to providing education and repairs to the building and other items. If the building has other entities, they need to build walls to make it a secure unit.
   - Explore the willingness with St. Joe’s and University of Rochester.
   - Brian Hart has had discussion with St. Joe’s in the past on sharing staff (BSU/Adolescent/New Dawn).
   - Explore options of vacant property/buildings with EPC.
   - Enhance the training of the ER staff specific to pediatric psych issues.
   - Consider Tela-Psyhyp services with the University of Rochester.
   - Explore options of having psychologist instead of psychiatrist do evaluations.
3. Housing –
   - OMH Housing
   - Increase Supported and Supportive Housing (with medications/cooking) – staff on site.
   - Create ADC teaching program for basic living skills or connect with existing aide programs. This will assist with meals/meds/sense of security.
   - Need more providers in family care homes – revisit Melanie’s option.
   - Independent Living Skills Trainer
   - Increase affordable one bedroom apartments.
   - Purchase reasonable property and have a case manager checking in on the individuals on a regular basis, to make sure they are taking care of themselves as well as their apartment. This will help clients have some accountability.

4. Workforce –
   - Explore the ability for incentives to help residents stay in the area.
   - Increase the number of Psychiatric Nurse Practitioners for long term and regularity relief.
   - Create more job shadowing/internship opportunities by connecting with colleges. Reporting requirements can be an issue.
   - Brian Hart has offered to supervise interns if it will benefit your agency, as they have to be under an MSW.
   - Attend Job Fairs

5. Adherence with medication regime –
   - Utilize the MIT to be a transition coordinator between inpatient and outpatient to assure that their needs are being met (transportation/medications/housing/care management/medical provider/benefits).
   - Encourage Medical Doctors to consider long acting medications and injectables.
   - Home visiting Nurses

Sharing by Community Members:

➢ Nothing to Share.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 24, 2019 – due to Brian being on vacation the day we would normally hold our meeting.