Mental Health Sub-Committee
April 24, 2019

Present: Brian Hart, Shannon Oakes, Ellen Topping, Lisa Daley, Marilyn Cristofaro, Lois Bocchicchio, Rebecca Robertshaw, Heather Hargraves, Christina Sirois

Excused:

Minutes:

Approved without changes.

Introductions:

Suicide Prevention Update—Shannon Oakes:

- **Committee News:** The Walk-A-Mile event is next Saturday, May 4th. Currently there are 900+ that have registered online for the event, and I’m sure an influx of registrations will happen in the next two days as the registration shuts down on Friday April 26th at 4:30pm. Once the registration is shut down they can print off the teams/individuals that registered, and have that ready for t-shirt distribution day on Thursday May 2nd at the YWCA from 7am to 7pm. On Saturday they will take new registrations, but it will be first come first serve with t-shirts and lunches. Shannon has answered a ton of emails/calls/FB messages about the event. At the event they will have merchandise to sell, a stage set up, reusable balloons, left-over t-shirts from prior years. Volunteers are needed for t-shirt day, please contact Shannon if you can help out. Volunteers will also be needed at the event on Saturday for on-the-spot registration, set up, tear down. CCC will be assisting the food vendor, and Elmira Heights School District will be handing out water. Crisis will have a table set up, as well as 4 or 5 other agencies that will are community resources and focus on the issue at hand. Glove House came out and did a great job on the Park Clean-up. We will be revamping the Hope Garden this weekend and planting flowers on Monday. There have been 11,000 views on Facebook, we have been playing the TV commercials, and radio ads on five stations. Vitamin L registered a team, and they always raise more money than we pay them to perform at the event. Next Wednesday I will be with Scott & Ally show from WINK 106 promoting the event.

Director of Community Services report - Brian Hart:

- **Arnot/St. Joe’s ER Update:** Mary Vosburgh spoke to Brian about a rumor that is not accurate about the plan for transition with ER services at Arnot/St. Joe’s. Individuals are still going to be transported to St. Joe’s with a pick-up order. The BSU is not moving to Arnot, maybe in the future, but they will need funding to build on to make the appropriate space available. There have been some discussion on transports once the St. Joe’s ER has moved to Arnot. People have been saying that they have requested the Ambulance and Law
Enforcement to transport individuals to St. Joe’s into the BSU or New Dawn program. This is NOT true, Arnot will be providing the transportation once this happens.

- **Finalizing Local Plan:** This is an online system which does not allow for many options. Once you put in your Goal, it will only allow you a maximum of 5 objectives, so you need to choose your word wisely. Brian passed out a copy of the Goals and Objectives Form, so everyone could look it over and see if any changes and/or additions were needed.

  Under Housing – the objectives are: to assist individuals with the transition to a lower level of care. The need for respite for children, as they are in the process of opening one for “Breath”. Also have Family Services and Arbor Development working on temporary respite or in home respite for a few hours. There is always a need for housing. Happy to see that several agencies are applying with blended funding for lower income/disabled/developmentally disabled/substance abuse/mental health disabilities. Develop affordable housing options possibly through land banks.

  Brian asked if this captured what they wanted for housing and everyone agreed.

  Under Transportation – We did not indicate this as a primary interest. There is a new system called “Smart Tap System”. Users will need a Smart Phone or access to email to upload on their card. If users lose their card there is a fee to have it replaced. Brian asked if any of the providers have heard from C-Tran, and they all said not that they know of. Brian said that he gave Transit names for each organization to contact. It was stated that people with disabilities will struggle with this new system. Brian suggested they attend an upcoming Chemung County Coordinated Transportation Committee meeting on May 15, 2019 at 10:00am at 800 W. Broad St. in Horseheads. Someone mentioned that they were invited to a meeting at C-Tran meeting on May 2, 2019 at the building on Clemens Center Parkway. It was mentioned that they don’t feel that the transit system has taken into consideration the Rep Payee Services that are provided to individuals.

  Under Workforce – the objectives are: Develop videos with use of staff from multiple agencies to promote the fields, engage in local high schools/colleges to promote the field, participate in career days events, evaluate loan forgiveness programs, shared staffing models and other incentive options for all employees, and explore options of reimbursement for college in exchange for commitment to the agency.

  Brian asked if this captured what they wanted for workforce and everyone agreed.

  Under Inpatient Treatment Services – the objectives are: the ER is doing a better job at assessing patients, now that they have a Psychiatrist in the ER. The BHAT staff have the rights tools and training to have sound judgement. Children are sitting far too long in the ER. They are not accurately assessed,
then there are no open beds, and they have had no treatment, except for meds in the ER. In Utica, NY there is McPike, which did not need a separate license for individuals to attend a dual recovery group while they were an inpatient. New Dawn staff are signed up to do FIT training, so they can do dual diagnosis group sessions. OASAS is telling New Dawn that they can't do the dual diagnosis group sessions. Brian is going to contact the field office to get this worked out and have it in writing from Albany that it can be done.

Brian asked if this captured what they wanted for inpatient treatment services and everyone agreed.

**Outpatient Services** - the objectives are: 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). There are some barriers, as Family Services is saying they have not been allowed to attend these meetings. There is an MOA in place, what are the rules of the outside agency? Meetings are held two times a week talk with discharge planners. There are quarterly meetings with all involved. The issue is staff coming into the Nurses station and having access to codes. This is a safety concern with staff. They need to be consistent with all Agencies. Things should be getting back on track, as they get to know the law and are trained. Some said they were not invited to attend the meetings because release/consents were not the correct forms. According to the regulations, there is nothing that says a specific form is needed. Brian wanted to remind everyone that Mental Health Legal Services are not your technical advisor. They are the Advocacy Arms for your clients (Kevin Mosher and David Keagle). Discharge planning is the best thing to do for patients who are transitioning from inpatient to outpatient. We need to encourage Physicians to consider long acting medications and injectables for those who have a lack of compliance in taking their medications. Office of the Aging still has their “Friendly Visitor Program”, you just need to contact them to fill out a referral.

Brian asked if this captured what they wanted for outpatient services and everyone agreed.

Brian asked the committee members if they wanted him to present the local plan and objectives to the Community Services Board. They all agreed to allow the local plan to move forward to the CSB.

**Sharing by Community Members:**

- **Catholic Charities** – A Mental Health Dance will be held on May 16, 2019 from 5pm to 7pm at the Community Kitchen. They have a DJ and have give-aways, it is a fun time for all.

**The next meeting is scheduled for May 15, 2019.**