Mental Health Sub-Committee  
May 15, 2019

Present: Brian Hart, Shannon Oakes, Marilyn Cristofaro, Lois Bocchicchio, Rebecca Robertshaw, Tarry Jochem, Dina O'Herron, Jennifer Hollenbeck, Ashley Kerrick, Lori Murphy

Excused: Lisa Daley, Christina Sirois, Lisa Alger

Minutes:

Approved without changes.

Introductions:

Suicide Prevention Update–Shannon Oakes:

➢ Committee News: They are wrapping up all the loose ends from the Walk-A-Mile Event. Shannon wants to thank everyone for all their support in volunteering and coming to the event. It went very well and the numbers surpassed last year. They can’t do an actual number but it is estimated that they had well over 2000 people. They sold out of every sweat shirt and coffee mug. Shannon still has a couple of items left from the raffle that she needs to give to the winners. There has been a lot of positive feedback. The leftover food went to Trinity and the Shelter.

The Committee is regrouping and will be planning for next year’s event which will be the 15th Anniversary of the Walk-A-Mile Event. We are hoping that the OMH Commissioner will come next year, as we sent photos of the event and a personal invitation. There was media coverage during the event, and follow up media coverage. This is the first time that Tioga County set up a table at the event. Others who were there with tables were Steuben County, two Veteran’s Groups, and CRISIS. The event took in approximately $45,000. There were a few book keeping issues from registrations at the event, but that was fixed. When procedures are followed things run a lot smoother. There were a couple of glitches with the event. One was a vendor was set up by the entrance to the park to sell hot dogs, chips and water. They would need a permit in order to do that, and I don’t think the city would have given him a permit when we had already scheduled our event for the same date/time. The other glitch was a woman who sent correspondence through the website who had concerns about out of control dogs. There were at least two dogs that were not managed well and were jumping on people. We can ask people who bring dogs to be mindful of others, but we can’t tell them they can’t bring them. The canopy storage bags were somehow damaged, and holes are in them. They don’t know how this happened, but will contact the company to see if we can get new storage bags. We really didn’t have as many issues as last year. Vitamin L put out their own video of the Walk and set it to Michael Jackson music.
It was asked if they ever thought about moving the event to the Fair Grounds, due to such a large turnout for the event. The answer was no, because it’s the power of walking around Eldridge Lake and visually see people surrounding the Lake and the whole atmosphere. People did say that they couldn’t hear anyone speaking and that maybe additional speakers are needed for the event. They have thought of raising the speakers up higher, and it was mentioned that the speakers that they use at the i-Matter Festival work well. CVS was the largest team this year and they want to do additional donations. Kennedy Valve’s team made additional t-shirts and go above and beyond. Kennedy Valve sponsors the entire team. We need to get more schools involved. We have lost Elmira Heights, as they use to have a team of 100, but once their team leader left they have not continued. Corning has had a team, but not this year. The adults in these school districts need to organize a team. We thought Horseheads would have a team this year, but they didn’t organize a team either.

- **Safe TALK:** There will be a training June 1st at Family Services. This is a closed registration only for Care Managers at Family Services.

- **Youth Mental Health First Aid:** Will be holding a training next week here at DSS, you need to register if you would like to attend. This is for 2 half days 5/23 and 5/24.

There was some discussion on how Corning-Painted Post School District is doing their doing trainings with students. There has been some input that they are going against best practices. They are doing it in Assembly format where the message gets lost. Smaller groups are needed to make more of an impact. Corning-Painted Post has what is called “Hawk Day Bingo” where they talk about hot button issues. The students do not take this seriously. Students stay home because they don’t have regular classes that day.

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

- **Update on Local Agency Administration Changes (Opportunities for Change?):** There are a few agencies who have new CEO’s. EPC has a new Executive Director – David Putney. Glove House has an Interm-Executive Director is Mike Marinan. Family Services new Executive Director is David Shapiro. Pathways has not yet announced who their new Executive Director will be, but the person is supposed to be starting in June. These all present some opportunities for change. ARC of Chemung & Schuyler are entering into a collaboration agreement to eventually become one.

- **Commissioner’s Presentation to CLMHD:** The meeting was held in Saratoga and the Commissioner of OMH spoke about the Governor’s Task Force on Suicide Prevention. She specifically noted preventative matters and mentioned Chemung County. During this two day meeting there was a State Supreme Court case that was mentioned from Chemung County. This was over a request for a 730 Evaluation, which is a Court Ordered Competency Evaluation. The Court Attorney orders the evaluations if MH or DD are to assist in their defense. The Physician’s decision was split (1-yes, 1-no). In the end,
the Judge has the final say and makes the ruling. The person’s Attorney opted to drop the request for the evaluation which in turn violated the rights of his client. The Court over ruled this because he in fact had to have a determination from the lower court on the evaluations, and couldn't be simply dropped.

There have been cases in which a minor has been requested under a different section of the law for an evaluation. Doctors are to solely base it on MH or DD and not their age. There have been cases in which the doctors have based it on age and this can be appealed.

- **HCBS for Children:** As of April 1, 2019, the State has condensed 6 waivers into 1 super waiver. In addition adaptive equipment fall under the local Department of Social Services to the rates. They have never set rates before, but there are not that many. In January 2020 independent assessments need to be made for all ages. We don’t know who will be doing it.

C-YES – what has been the impact on C-YES? There have been no requests made so far sense the change took place on April 1, 2019. Waivers/Policies change daily. Our Local SPOE meetings have been cancelled more than they meet. There is supposed to be meeting once a week. The Coordinator would like to know if that is enough or not enough, to have it once a week. Respite is getting referrals.

- **Pick-up Orders:** Brian met with Crisis and Law Enforcement and found out they have the incorrect form. He wants to make sure everyone is utilizing the correct form for Pick-up Orders. He has heard that they are using a form that Scott Forbes designed (in triplicate) years ago that is not supposed to be used. On the correct form that is supposed to be used, Law Enforcement fill out the top portion of the form. Brian or his designees fill out the lower portion of the form if they are indicating the person is to be sent to the hospital instead of law enforcement. He will send the correct form to Arnot. Law Enforcement is demanding Pick-up Order from Crisis, so this would be done in collaboration if law enforcement didn’t feel that they were comfortable making that decision under part 9.45. We are trying to make things better, so please do not use the triplicate forms, as they are the old forms. Lisa/David/Jennifer and Physicians in the ER at Arnot are the only designees in the community who can sign them.

There have been some misperceptions on when to call Crisis. It has not been misused as much lately. In the past if clients weren’t able to get ahold of their counselors in OFA, they were encouraged to call Crisis if it was an emergency. That is not being done anymore.

**Sharing by Community Members:**

- **Nothing to Share.**

*The next meeting is scheduled for June 19, 2019.*