Mental Health Sub-Committee  
August 21, 2019  

Present: Brian Hart, Dina O’Herron, Lori Murphy, Christina Sirois, Ellen Topping, Jennifer Emery, Tara Fethers

Excused: Lois Bocchicchio, Shannon Oakes

Minutes:
Approved without changes.

Introductions:

Suicide Prevention Update–Shannon Oakes:

- In Shannon’s Absence Brian Hart gave the update: A Safe TALK training will be held September 13, 2019 here at the DSS/HRC Building 1:00pm to 4:00pm in room 322. If you are interested please make sure you register with Shannon prior to the training. Brian passed out registration forms. If anyone is interested in hosting a Safe TALK training (open or closed) at a particular location please contact Shannon.

The Power of One – Walk for Suicide Prevention – will be held at the Bath VA Medical Center on September 12, 2019 10:30am to 2:30pm. This is not restricted to veterans, and is open to the public. Shannon will be setting up a booth to share suicide prevention resources. Brian passed out the flyer with the information.

A Youth Mental Health First Aid training will be held August 28th and 29th here at the DSS/HRC Building 8:30am to 12:30pm in room 322. If you are interested please make sure you register with Shannon prior to the training. Brian passed out the flyer with the information.

Director of Community Services report - Brian Hart:

- Deputy Commissioner: Brian announced that Christine (Tina) O’Herron) has been named the new Deputy Commissioner for the Department of Human Services. It will be a slow transition as we have to back fill her old position as Director of Administrative Services.

- AOT: Brian finished up if first official 6 month AOT that will go to court on Friday. Per the treatment plan ACT, Gateways, and Trinity will be involved. These types of cases should be the worst of the worst, and we are going to give this a try. The question was asked if the Judge can order the individual into treatment. The answer was, not in an AOT, they can only do court ordered treatment if they the individual was involved in a substance abuse crime. Clients are becoming more and more complex. Brian stated that AOT’s are
definitely working in urban areas for those who are in need of services and does not have access to them. But, when you can get access to AOT services, it doesn’t have the same significant effect and the Court isn’t that influential.

**ESSHI Funding:** Brian sent out an email to all the CEO’s/Directors in the Mental Health, Substance Abuse and Developmental Disability agencies to remind them of the procedures are when trying to open/close services and that they need to be followed. Just because funding becomes available, it doesn’t mean that we don’t follow regulations that are in place, such as those in Title 14. Local planning needs to be done first through the Substance Abuse/Developmental Disabilities/Mental Health Sub-Committee’s and then on to the Community Services Board. We need to make sure that we aren’t duplicating services, and there aren’t any sub-planting of funds. Agencies need to first coordinate with everyone locally before applying for this available funding. With the ESSHI funding, it provides operational funding and the agencies need to secure capital funding.

Brian was unaware of one project until he was asked by OTDA to sign off on. He couldn’t do it, because it was never presented to the Substance Abuse Committee or the Community Services Board.

Another project needs to resubmit for the funding because they still need to secure 18 million dollars in capital funding.

There is no guidance in the document (issued by NYS) as to how to proceed for the funding, except to go through your local COC (Catholic Charities). It does not state that you need to contact your local LGU and that it needs to be approved through the local sub-committee(s) and the Community Services Board. There is no strategic planning with our local COC.

We need to collaboratively have a discussion about housing needs in Chemung County. Does anyone go to the COC meetings? The struggles that we have is on the back end. The flow isn’t occurring, but there is movement. Individuals can’t afford the cost of rent in Chemung County because it’s too high and they depend on subsidized rent. There is a problem within the system and we need a better solution. We need to establish relationships with landlords, because there are a small group of landlords who will lower the rent to a manageable amount with utilities included.

Every service we provide should not be forever. Push in Home Health Manager Services, so they can move out of the Supportive Apartments and open a slot up for someone else in need. In preparation for a short term, find out what resources and supports can be utilized. Manage reinforcement, because individuals get use to the services provided and don’t want them to go away. How do we identify those in need? Do they need this level of housing? If all that is needed is supports, then a referral is not needed. Most workers refer the most services they can get for the person. An assessment needs to be done, and all potential referral services need to know what services are provided in the community.
More housing is needed, and we need to have a better understanding of the housing we already have.

DISRIP is nearing the end of its 5th year. DISRIP 2.0 will then happen which will be a familiar to DISRIP 1.0.

Sharing by Community Members:

- **Family Services**: Passed out new CRISIS business cards that have the new CRISIS phone number on it.

  The next meeting is scheduled for September 18, 2019.