Present: Brian Hart, Pamela Overdurf, David Andreine, Rene’ Snyder, Colleen Inthanongsak

Excused: AJ Kircher, Kellie Traugott-Knoll, Sean Eagen, Tara Fethers, Danielle Adriance-Wensel, Leisa Alger

Minutes:

Approved without changes.

Director of Community Services Report – Brian Hart

IDD – ID’s: Brian was on the State website and saw this. What are they using it for? They are using this for who to contact in case of a medical emergency etc. Anyone with a developmental disability can put in their personal information. There has not been a huge response locally.

Information Line (866-946-9733): How much information on Developmental Disabilities do they have? It would be interesting to find out what this offers. Has anyone used it? None of the committee members have used this number. It might be worth checking out. There are usually unique needs for each individual, so not sure how informative it would be to help them. This might have come out when OPWDD opened the Front Door. There is not much publication about this number.

Local Plan Update: We need to revisit to see what we should be working on. As for Housing, AIM has opened up a total of new 28 bed housing unit on Caton Avenue in Elmira.. Three of the units are for Developmental Disabilities, and they were filled in the 1st week. They are all local residents. They are learning appropriate behaviors, what is the appropriate time for quests, and learning new skills. There is a skills trainer on site to help individuals with independent living skills such as laundry, cleaning, cooking. There is a common area in the building in which they have group trainings and the individuals who attend receive a stipend. They usually use the van to take them shopping so they can spend their gift card. The trainers also do one-on-one with individuals. The individuals have been very appreciative. They are in their 3rd month now and they are seeing them evolve. Now they will be focusing on employment. They will be teaching them employment skills with Access VR. This will be encouraged and not forced. They are all OPWDD individuals, but they came with no supportive services. They are making referrals and working on getting them self-directive services. AIM’s Maple Ave housing unit is full and the Caton Ave housing unit has only 1 unit left for availability. These are fair market rentals, they have a lot of Arbor Housing vouchers, and people paying their own rent.

There has been some changes to the ESHHI process. OMH is the lead entity, but the Local Government (LGU) has to be involved before it is approved. We need to
develop the right kind of housing, and we need to have discussions ahead of time. Do we have an overall view of the needs of the community, sense the new housing has been put in place? A question was asked as to how many are we serving that are not from this County? How are the public tax dollars being used? How many people coming out of prisons have relocated here once they are released from the prison. We need answers to these questions. A lot of buildings have gone up, how do they fit in with the total number we needed to know if there is still a need? We need to know the number of licensed beds vs. potential need. The housing that has been developed were not totally specific to developmental disabilities, they only included a few units in each. There have been some outside developers who have built housing in Chemung County. The Jones Court (Libertad) project was not in Brian Hart’s purview of Mental Health. So he doesn’t know any information on the housing unit, because outside developers do not come to the table for discussion. We need to know the number of licensed beds vs. potential need.

As for transportation, is there anyone here that is active on the transportation board? Has there been any issues with the new system? At first there were a few kinks, but they have been working through them.

As for having an ample workforce, we need to develop a video, engage high school students, and explore more options. It was mentioned that there are people who are in their Junior year of college who haven’t been reimbursed through a grant program for those who attend a State College and earn less than $120,000.00. AIM is working with Access VR for PEER Services. There are two PEERS that are co-located with Access VR Counselors and Continuing Education, and they are on the AIM payroll. It was mentioned by one of the committee members that they can’t get Access VR to the table. They need to fine tune their program and repackage it, and would love to see them become a partner.

As for strategic planning with the educational system and meeting with OPWDD on educational services. We need to work with the State to seek out funding. We have not done anything with this. We need to work on objectives for support for transitioning youth from Early Intervention but don’t qualify for OPWDD services.

Continuation of Care Community (COC) what is their role? There is some flawed logic. If someone is couch surfing, and/or living with family they are not considered homeless. They are not representing/reflecting the different types of housing needs. AIM worked with Katie Donahue on the permanent housing wait assessment. They referred some to other places so they could be successful.

State wide the Home Health we can’t access. Not just one it’s all with the Care Coordination Entity. CCO is not active until Medicaid is in place. It takes time for the waiver enrollment. During this time there is no official care coordination. Medicaid needs to be verified and Albany need to approve appropriate Medicaid. It would be nice to see how many area in a holding pattern. If Brian Hart had those numbers he would share it with his counter parts. Need to meet with CCO and State on these issues. It was suggested that maybe E-MedNY would be helpful in speeding up the process.
Sharing by Community Members:

Nothing to Share.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 19, 2020.