Developmental Disabilities Sub-Committee
June 16, 2021

Present: Brian Hart, Leisa Alger, Pam Overdurf, Madison Sautley, Michelle Nicholas, Melissa Stafford, Kellie Traughott-Knoll, Rene’ Snyder

Excused: AJ Kircher, Sean Eagen

Minutes:

Approved without changes.

Director of Community Services Report – Brian Hart

➢ Future Meetings in Person?: Due to the Governor lifting COVID-19 restrictions Brian asked everyone if anyone had any objections to returning the Committee Meeting to In-Person meetings. If you are vaccinated you do not need to wear a mask during the meeting. None of the Committee members had any objections, so Brian stated that starting August 18, 2021, all the Developmental Disability Committee meetings will be In-Person at the DSS/HRC Building – 425 Pennsylvania Ave., Elmira, NY 14904 at 10:00AM in ROOM 319.

➢ State 5.07 Planning: This has evolved from doing three different plans due at three different times of the year when this first started, to combining all three (Substance Abuse/Developmental Disabilities/Mental Health). This allows for joint planning for housing needs in the community. Local plans are supposed to be utilized to form the State Plan, but the State doesn’t always follow that protocol. All three State Agencies read each local plan, and gather general perspectives of them, and sometimes reference them in the State Plan. Brian asked the committee members if any of their agencies participated or plan to participate in the States Plan. A committee member stated that Able 2 participated. They did a listening tour, and had discussions about the hold-ups with EMOD contracts, housing contracts and working with FI. There were predetermined issues that were discussed and discussion about health care and how to deal with it being managed care or not. There were options with family groups, and listening sessions for ARC’s but do not know the specifics, and do not know if any CCO’s were included. A committee member said that ARC of NY is preparing a response from the survey’s they sent out to each of the ARC’s. Brian stated it is important that you want yourselves being heard at the State level.

➢ ER Presentations: Brian stated that about 1 ½ years ago a form was created so that it could be filled out when someone presents to the ER. Once it is filled out it is sent to Brian. Brian has noticed that every single one of the individuals are leaving, either on the same day or within 24 hours from the ER. Brian is wondering if the individuals are receiving the treatment that they need. Brian has heard complaints from other Counties that their Developmental Disabilities population are in the ER for days or even weeks at a time for psychiatric treatments. A committee member said that there are concerns in that some in the ER think that we don’t know how to work with an individual because of their IQ. The committee member does not think the ER staff are taking the needs of the individual seriously. They have been contacting law
enforcement, because they get a better response from the ER. Brian stated that they should be calling CRISIS, not the police, as they also have the ability to do Pick-up Orders. The committee member stated that it’s based on the situation and that even CRISIS will give push back to Care Coordinators. Brian stated that if they are not getting what is needed for the individual, they need to call his cell phone. Brian is aware of the physician issue in the ER in which she believes everything is behavioral, but she will be relocating to Florida in July. A committee member stated that they have experienced this in Arnot as well as Robert Packer, as their population is assessed as behavioral the majority of the time and not mental health. Another committee member stated that Arnot has reached out to them and requested a meeting about one of their individuals and it was a very positive meeting, as they wanted to work with us. Brian stated that Arnot does have a residency program in which they meet and go over difficult cases. They present the whole case, ask questions, give feedback, and talk about what to do they next time. This has been extremely helpful in bridging the gaps. With complex cases there are no easy answers, you need to work collaboratively to get the best outcome. A committee member said there has been an uptick in substance abuse. Substance abuse, developmental disabilities and mental health are co-occurring and we need to know what resources are available. NYS OCFS use to have a regional team (Cross System Solutions) that went around and consulted on cases, and spoke to all parties involved. Brian said that he doesn’t know if this going to start up again, but it might happen. It was mentioned that Erie County has a facility that does a wonderful job, but once they are discharged from the facility, the individual is unable to get all the services (as they are not all available) that they received while they were in the facility. Brian said that we will continue to use the tracking form, but he may want to modify it to include what the ER experience was like for the individual. Brian wants to gather the correct data so each individual is getting the services they need.

➢ **Sharing by Community Members**

➢ **Person Centered Services** – Congress just passed Juneteenth as a Federal Holiday.

The next meeting is scheduled for **August 18, 2021**.

**IN PERSON - DSS/HRC Building – 425 Pennsylvania Ave, Elmira, NY 14904**

**ROOM 319**