

Mental Health Sub-Committee
August 19, 2020

Present: Brian Hart, Dina O’Herron, Lori Murphy, Christina Sirois, Rebecca Robertshaw, Melissa Stafford, Melissa Streeter

Excused: Jennifer Emery

Minutes:

No Meeting Minutes to Approve because no one showed for the July meeting.

Introductions:

Suicide Prevention Updates – Brian Hart:

- **Updates on the Walk:** They had their ZOOM committee meeting last week. Based on the fact that the epidemic is in full force, the committee decided to to a “Virtual Walk” instead of an in-person walk. The “Virtual Walk” will be Saturday September 26, 2020 at 11am. Information will be posted on the Website and the Facebook page. Everyone is encouraged to post pictures on the Facebook page of their walk and share “Positive” messages. The Journey Center will be putting together a video loop of video/photos from previous years on the website. You can see this during the time of the scheduled virtual walk. There will be no registration, registration fee, or t-shirts. They will utilize the t-shirts that were ordered for the May 1, 2021 scheduled in-person Walk-A-Mile Event. Brian has notified all the vendors that were supposed to attend for this year’s event. A committee member mentioned to have everyone do a #hashtag, so that it is directly linked back to the Facebook account. When you click on the #hashtag link it will show all the photo/comments everyone has made using the #hashtag. Brian will think of a unique #hashtag for the 2020 Virtual Chemung Walk-A-Mile event and put it on the website and Facebook page. He encourages everyone to take the time on September 26, 2020 at 11am to Walk-A-Mile and post using a yet to be determined creative hashtag.

Director of Community Services report - Brian Hart:

- **State Aid Reductions –** The State is saying there will be withholds, which are temporary. They will be withholding 20% of the funds determined by the LGU. If the Federal Stimulus comes through then the funds will be added back in. It is easier to spread the 20% reduction within the 3rd and 4th quarter and not just the 4th quarter and start with the underutilized programs first then move on to all the other programs. This plan was submitted and when they met, one person has some issues with it. Brian is hoping that we do not have to do any of these cuts, but we have to be prepared if it happens. If we do happen to get the Federal Stimulus package, then they should put an extension on expenses, because they cannot be all capital expenses.

- **Impact of ER Changes** – There has been an issue with local law enforcement taking individuals to the Arnot ER and not accepting the patient right away. Sometimes law enforcement were waiting over an hour for them to admit the person to the ER. Brian stated that law enforcement to not have the time to hang out with an individual until the ER admits them. Law Enforcement should be taking them inside, give the ER a quick report and then leave. Brian stated that he spoke with Arnot about the situation. There was also confusion on paperwork for having the patient transported from Arnot to St. Joe's. That has been resolved as the hospital will pay for the transport, and they cannot bill the patient for it. They can use a DCS or a 2PC for transport but not a pick up order. A 939 is a pick up order. Brian stated that he has made Erway Ambulance aware that a 2PC or DCS are the only forms they are to use when transporting from Arnot to St. Joe's. A 939 pick-up order is only to be utilized to take a patient to the ER to be evaluated. Arnot should be using internal transportation to transfer patients from Arnot to St. Joe's not using Erway.
- **Travel Advisory Impact** - If you are traveling to a State that is on NY's Restricted List, you need to quarantine for 14 days upon your return. Maryland hit the BSU hard as many staff had planned vacations to this State. The BSU (all staff) take a COVID-19 test upon return to New York and if it comes back negative then they can come back to work. Family Services have staff quarantine for 14 days. At DSS, the service is essential but not the staff. The agency has never closed to public, but the staff have to quarantine for 14 upon their return to NY from a restricted state and they have to use their own benefit time. At EPC, everyone has to show up for work, even if the State has declared an emergency. Brian stated that each employer determines if they are essential or not.
- **AspireHopeNY/Glove House Submissions to the CSB** – The AspireHopeNY proposal was approved by the CSB. The Glove House proposal was not approved by the CSB, as they deemed it not to be sustainable.

Sharing by Community Members:

- **Staffing for Employees with School Age Children** – School Districts are coming out with some hybrid scheduling and a choice of 100% virtual (Special Ed students they are going to try to do 5 days a week. Elmira Heights for the elementary students it will be ½ days 5 days a week. BSU stated that they are waiting to figure things out. Family Services stated that they are waiting to hear from all the school districts. DSS has about 40 staff who are directly impacted by the school districts schedules. The question was asked what happens in 2 weeks when the positive tests spike. That is TBD. If it goes back to 100% virtual some of the students will have a hard time with not being able to socialize, and not having the self-motivation to do the schoolwork. This is also going to impact employers with huge staffing issues and trying to keep programs open. If a student tests positive for COVID-19, then the child and anyone he had “direct exposure” with will have to quarantine for 14 days.

The next meeting is scheduled for September 16, 2020.