

Mental Health Sub-Committee
January 17, 2018

Present: Brian Hart, Shannon Oakes, Candie White, Mary Vosburgh

Excused: Marilyn Christofaro, Ann Heleen Smith

Minutes:

Approved without changes

Introductions:

Suicide Prevention Update–Shannon Oakes:

- **Walk A Mile Event:** Started planning for the event and are looking at a May 5th date. Need to get Certificate of Insurance for the event. Working on getting application for food vendor and get that turned in. It will be at Eldridge Park again. We really need to rally the troops to help that week. Will need assistance on t-shirt day, as Megan will not be able to help. The Committee is working on approving a color for the t-shirts. Looking at sending out formal solicitations to Agencies to assist on t-shirt day and the day of the event, may 3rd and 5th respectfully. The t-shirt day hours will be 7:30am to 7:00pm. They will be handing out hundreds of t-shirts that day and will take in about thousands in cash and checks.
- **Website:** Walkamile.net – Will be trained next week on the new website.
- **ASIST Training:** Will be doing a training with the Nursing Students, but they want it the week of the walk, so an e-mail has been sent to Albany to find other trainers willing to do the training. Will also have a training in March at the DSS/HRC building and it will be open to the community. This will be two half days (back to back) with 2 trainers. Just received an e-mail from the Elmira Police Department and will follow up with them. Suggests this training for licensed clinicians.
- **Signs of Suicide (SOS) Training:** Was done at the Elmira High School and they would like another training set up in March for the next semester. The Elmira Heights teachers do well at presenting it, but the Elmira teachers do not feel comfortable.
- **Suicide Safety for Teachers:** Will be doing this 90 minute training for teachers and staff (school personnel) in the Elmira City School District. She will do one in the morning in one location and another one at a different location. This will help the district meet some of their mandates.
- **Youth Mental Health First Aid Training:** A training has been set up for the 26th and 27th (2 half days). There is no cost but you must register for the

training. The Council of Mental Hygiene will provide the materials free of cost. Suggests this training for non-licensed clinicians who work with youth.

- **Committee News:** The Committee met last week to talk about the Budget and Goals this year and started the preliminary planning for the Walk. They are looking at May 5th for the date of the event and will meet in February for Approval.

Director of Community Services report - Brian Hart:

- **Expansions:** The Director of Community Services needs to be able to weigh in on any changes/expansions in services in the community (Chemung, Steuben, Schuyler, Tioga). Pennsylvania and New York have a similar amount of red tape for expansions/changes, and would like to see it more streamlined. OMH is the easiest in applying for expansions, but not when doing an application for a new service/program.
- **Geriatric NP Update:** About 2 years ago the OMH Field Office were looking into the long term stays in EPC. Elmira and Binghamton have the lowest numbers in long term stays. Family Services/Nursing Homes/EPC/OMH Field Office had a meeting. Need to provide geriatric services when someone leaves EPC and is admitted into a Nursing Home. Family Services had a difficult time finding the right person for the NP position (working ½ time in geriatric, and ½ time with youth), but did end up finding someone to fill the position. Meanwhile EPC hired a part time NP to assist if Nursing Homes needed a physician consult. The two NP's communicate very well with each other and meet on a regular basis. They primarily serve the Chemung County Nursing Facility and Elcor. There is a report that needs to be done every month, and a quarterly report that needs to be sent to Albany.

The State is trying to eliminate beds, and it is now distributed between all of New York State, not just the Elmira/Binghamton area. A bed has to go unused for 90 days.

- **Governor's Suicide Prevention Task Force Update:** Brian has been in weekly communication, via phone, with the other committee members to set goals by the end of February to present to the Governor of New York State. It seems as if the State has already pre-determined these goals. There will be one more meeting at the end of February.
- **RPC Regional Issues:** The Finger Lakes Regional Planning Consortium – They have been very active and have condensed the list of regional issues. Do we have answers for these regional issues? What are the issues we cannot resolve? One is rate setting by the state. The New BHC, isn't this a duplication of RPC's? There is always someone in charge making decisions that are not well informed. It seems as if everything is being micro-managed by the Governor.

- **5.07 Plan:** The Committee needs to spend some time in February and March to discuss issues in our area, such as gaps in services, and submit a plan. We need to keep things in mind and what will be our top priorities, because we don't put everything in a plan.

Sharing by Community Members:

- Crisis – The Com Center is refusing to respond to crisis' request for transport Pick-up Orders when the Elmira Police Department is contacted. Brian Hart has discussed this with both the Sheriff Department and the EPD. If an individual at the jail is being released and they have a Pick-up Order, then it is EPD's responsibility to transport the individual. With a Pick-up Order individuals can be transported by law enforcement or ambulance. The law does not allow for voluntary transports. The paperwork that is filled out for a Pick-up Order needs to say Involuntary, so they can be transported. When a person goes Voluntary, the person recognizes that they need treatment and are willing to go and receive services. If someone is going to a facility across state lines, the paperwork has to say voluntary. Pennsylvania and New York have different paperwork that needs to be filled out. Need to ask the BOT Team what paperwork needs to be filled out for someone who will be going to an out of state facility.

🕒 **The next meeting is scheduled for February 21, 2018.**