

Mental Health Sub-Committee
July 18, 2018

Present: Brian Hart, Alan Yeck, Lois Bocchicchio, Cynthia Cuyle, Marilyn Cristofaro, Katie Allard, Tiffany Bloss, David McCausland, Tara McLaughlin,

Excused: Annheleen Smith, Shannon Oakes, Sarah Mattison, Melanie Rahr, David A

Minutes:

Approved without changes

Introductions:

Suicide Prevention Update–Brian Hart in Shannon’s absence:

- **Committee News:** Shannon is on vacation and will update in the August meeting.
- **SafeTALK:** Training will be held on Thursday September 13, 2018 at 1:00pm to 4:00pm in this building (DSS) in room 322. If you are interested, please sign up with Shannon Oakes. Brian handed out registration forms and said that this covers the signs and symptoms of suicide and the training will be held during Suicide Prevention Week. At least 10 people need to be signed up for the class, and this is for adults only. This training is open to the public, but SafeTALK can be set up as a closed training for organizations. As long as they have 10 people to attend. We can do that with other trainings as well such as; ASIST(2 full days of training), QPR, Youth Mental Health First Aide.
- **Suicide Prevention Conference:** The annual conference will be held on September 20th and 21st in Albany. Brian handed out information on the Conference. The main topic is the report from the Governor on the recommendations that were given by the Suicide Prevention Task Force.

Director of Community Services report - Brian Hart:

- **County Crisis Plan:** For the past 25 years Chemung County has had a mobile crisis team, and they have been closely linked with law enforcement. They have had good results in their numbers. They take about 750 calls a year and 50% of these are phone calls only. The other 50% are face to face, with about 17% of the individuals going to the ER. There are no stats on what law enforcement have encountered. The Crisis Team has a well-developed policy and procedure manual that was put together by Scott Forbes. Late in 2017, OMH wanted all the Counties to submit a Crisis Plan, so Brian submitted the information we have on our own Crisis Team what we have had for the past 25 years. OMH sent Brian a short list of questions, in which he sent a three page

response in April. This week he received more questions about Chemung Counties Plan. The standard from OMH is that they need to respond within two hours. Chemung Counties Plan states that they will respond within a ½ hour, but OMH wanted to know is that a ½ hour form the time of the call to the answering service, or a ½ hour form the answering service to the on-call staff. Crisis is in the process of negotiating from an answering service to Live Triage. Family Services has been in discussion with the National Suicide Prevention Hot Line in Tompkins County for over a year. Crisis has most of their calls during the first shift, and the National hotline in Tompkins County has most of their calls during the second shift. There is no staff for the third shift, and Tompkins County ports all their calls to another National Hot Line entity during this time. They would need to add staff and phone line system. Tompkins County wanted to send the third shift back to the on-call staff at Crisis, but Brian expressed discomfort with that plan. Some of what Family Services does now is billable and would cover the added cost of the third shift. OMH also wanted to know why we didn't anticipate growth in the program now that services are billable. It's just not practical to ask someone who is going through a crisis for their health insurance information so it can be billed. There are many Counties that do not have a Crisis Team. OMH might be looking into Crisis Plans for standardization. One County (Niagara County) in the Western Region has had their plan approved. Brian contacted them and they exchanged information.

- **Suicide Prevention Task Force:** After the final meeting Brian received an email from two of the Chair people, stating they would really like to highlight what Chemung County has done, and their history of effort as the County n. Brian agreed to allow them to recognize Chemung County in the formal written document.
- **Arnot Plans?:** Lately Brian has been receiving questions from the state with regard to what Arnot/St. Joe's plan is. Are they going to consolidate ER's? The BSU has to have a triage mechanism. Has there been a Comprehensive Par done, so that they can legally merge and have the ER at Arnot? Brian informed the state that no such discussion has occurred with his office to date. Brian did send an e-mail o their administration inquiring about this and once he finds out more information, he will share.

Sharing by Community Members:

- Alan Yeck is now at Elmira College working with Part-Time Undergrad students. They are looking to develop new educational programs that have a need out in the community. If you know of any, please contact him.

🕒 **The next meeting is scheduled for August 15, 2018.**