

St. Clair County Community Mental Health Authority

Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, November 17th, 2021

PRESENT: Advisory Committee Members: Barbara Belkiewicz, Lisa Clark, Nancy Levitt, Mark Paulus, Richard Parker, Martha Partipilo, Cyndy Raymo, Amy Sanderson and Antoinette (Tosia) Tucker.

CMH Staff: Kathleen Gallagher (Program Director) and Kaeley Hux (CMH Recording Secretary).

ABSENT: Advisory Committee Members: Larry Doherty, Erin Rusch, and Nancy Thomson (Chairperson).

CMH Staff: Deb Johnson (Executive Director), and Karen Zultak (Program Supervisor).

GUESTS: None.

I. CALL TO ORDER/AGENDA CHANGES – N. Thomson

Kathleen Gallagher called the meeting to order at 12:02 P.M.

II. REVIEW/ACCEPT MINUTES – Group

The Advisory Council members accepted the previous month's minutes with no changes noted.

III. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE – K. Gallagher

A. Privatization/Advocacy Update

Senator Mike Shirkey's bill has advanced to the Senate. SCCCMHA is doing everything in their power to advocate against the changes the bill would impose, including working closely the board association to ensure that alerts and letters of opposition of Senator Shirkey's bill are being distributed to legislation.

Letters and advocacy alerts will continue to be forwarded to the Advisory Council so they may submit their opposition as well.

IV. CMH UPDATES – K. Gallagher

A. Day Program Update

Community Enterprises has appointed Scott Shine as the company's new CEO. Mychal Fearncomb is no longer with CE. The Agency has been working with CE and Bright Futures to return individuals to program. CE and Bright Futures are still currently experiencing a staffing shortage. The Agency continues to meet with CE and Bright Futures to offer aide as to reduce barriers to provide service.

B. Mild to Moderate Update

Through CCBHC, mild to moderate individuals with private insurance or Medicaid who would not typically be able to receive services through SCCCMHA have been approved to receive a bundle of services through the Agency. However, if the individual would need services beyond the approved package, there has been an exception process implemented. Please note that since this program has been opened, there are approximately 60-80 intake referrals received per week, thus giving a total of 200 new individuals served per month. Fully staffing this program is in process.

There was discussion in regard to the CMS mandate requiring anyone receiving funding through Medicaid or Medicare would need to be fully vaccinated by January 4th, 2022.

Employees of the Agency will need to receive their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccination by December 6th, 2021. Religious and medical exemptions will be honored under the ADA Title 7. Tracey Pingitore will provide direction on whether the Advisory Council is held to this mandate. Monitoring will continue for updates to the CMS mandate and information will be relayed as soon as possible. The Agency has approximately 100 employees who have not been vaccinated or shown proof of vaccination.

V. CCBHC UPDATE – K. Gallagher

The Agency continues to work with Region 10 on the Michigan CCBHC program to develop the perspective payment rate.

Free Yoga classes are still available.

MSU Extension classes are still available.

The Federal SAMHSA Grant is being continued until April 2022. The Agency will reapply upon conclusion of the current grant term. This grant allows funding to serve those in the community who would not typically be served.

VI. POLICY REVIEW – Group

No policies to review at this time.

VII. COUNCIL ROUNDTABLE – Group

The Advisory Council has no information at this time.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT – K. Gallagher

Kathleen Gallagher adjourned the meeting at 12:13 PM.

IX. NEXT MEETING: Wednesday January 19th, 2021 from 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM via Lifesize or in person.

Reviewed and Approved By:



Kathleen Gallagher
Program Director

Respectfully Submitted By:



Kaeley Hux
Recording Secretary

cc: Debra B. Johnson, Executive Director
Kathleen Gallagher, Program Director
Tracy Goyette, Executive Secretary
Advisory Committee Members
Marcy Cameron
Electronic Record