

St. Clair County Community Mental Health Authority  
**Advisory Council Meeting Minutes**  
Wednesday, July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021

XII.A.

**PRESENT:** Advisory Committee Members: Barbara Belkiewicz, Nancy Levitt, Mark Paulus, Richard Parker, Martha Partipilo, Cyndy Raymo, Nancy Thomson (Chairperson), and Antoinette (Tosia) Tucker.

CMH Staff: Debra Johnson (Executive Director), Kathleen Gallagher (Program Director) and Kaeley Hux (CMH Recording Secretary).

**ABSENT:** Advisory Committee Members: Lisa Clark, Larry Doherty, Cheryl LaFrance, Lisa Murphy, Richard Parker, Erin Rusch, and Amy Sanderson.

CMH Staff: Karen Zultak (Program Supervisor).

**GUESTS:** Dr. Rubina Sial

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

Chairperson Nancy Thomson called the meeting to order at 12:06 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 – D. Johnson**

**A. Welcome Dr. Sial!**

Dr. Rubina Sial has joined the CMH team as a full-time psychiatrist. She will provide services to adults three days a week and children two days a week. Although she has transferred from Georgia, Dr. Sial completed her residency at University of Michigan. Dr. Sial's DEA licensure is currently processing.

Dr. Sial is excited to begin her journey as a St. Clair County Community Mental Health full-time psychiatrist.

**B. July 2021 In The Know**

The In The Know is an informational packet that highlights important events, happenings, trainings, etc. within the CMH community; Such as being selected as the Best Place to Work in Healthcare in St. Clair County 2021 by Modern Healthcare. Within the July 2021 edition, there can be found information to advocate against the public mental health system privatization efforts. See III.D.

**C. 2021 Annual PAC Campaign**

The Political Action Committee Campaign is designed to help support representatives, senators and other leadership positions that help and support the mental health, behavioral health, and substance use disorder workforce. Considering the current efforts to privatize behavioral health, it is imperative that the PAC Campaign is supported—any donation amount helps. Please note the donation is not tax-deductible.

**D. Privatization Advocacy Update**

The Agency attended a session with Senator Dan Lauwers and Representative Gary Eisen to discuss the direct care worker wage increase, as the hourly wage competes with other business that may not be as laborious. Also discussed were the privatization efforts of the public mental health system, highlighting recent proposals from Senator Shirkey and Representative Whiteford. However, resolutions opposing privatization have been passed by the County Board of Commissioners, Blue Water Area Transit, St. Clair County Health

Department, St. Clair County Sheriff's Department, and St. Clair County Community Mental Health Board. Lastly discussed was the crisis within children's inpatient programs, such as being in the emergency room for up to two weeks or more at a time while waiting for a bed. Parents face issues of losing their job, home, or possibly even their other children as they cannot leave the emergency room. The Agency is going forward with doing their part to establish children's crisis homes to alleviate the additional stress parents face from the strict requirements from emergency rooms.

Strengths of the Public Mental Health System informational flyer will be emailed to the council.

There was discussion regarding the children's psychiatric services crisis.

#### **IV. CMH UPDATES – K. Gallagher**

##### **A. Police Initiatives**

Assistant Police Chief Marcy Kuehn and Kathleen Gallagher have discussed implementing a pilot program that will allow police to utilize our Mobile Crisis Unit when receiving calls from individuals who are not in an emergency. Individuals placing these calls are most likely experiencing a symptom of their mental illness, and it is believed deploying mental health specialists in lieu of police will better suit their needs while also leaving police available to assist those in emergency situations. Upon receiving calls from said individuals, the police department will immediately notify MCU. There has been a posting for a clinician that will work at the police department five days a week from 5:00 PM – 1:00 AM to ride along with officers to these calls. This will be funded by the CCBHC Grant.

Combining resources with our local police department is an ongoing endeavor, updates will be released when available.

##### **B. IPS Updates**

IPS is now staffed to assist individuals with developmental/intellectual disabilities gain employment. Please refer eligible individuals through our Access department.

##### **C. Mask/Program Updates**

Due to being a healthcare facility, masks are still required on the first floor at SCCCMH where individuals receive their services. On the second floor where administrative work is completed, masks are not required. Individuals are resuming program, however the staffing shortage limits the amount of individuals that may attend. The limited bodies in agency transportation vehicles mandate has been lifted. BWAT no longer has a limited bodies mandate, which has been helpful to individuals getting to CMH for their services.

#### **V. CCBHC UPDATE – K. Gallagher**

##### **A. Men's Health Series – Session 2**

Reduce the stigma for men's mental health on August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021. This session will be held in the Auditorium at the Municipal Office Center 100 McMorran Blvd. Port Huron, MI. See flyer for upcoming sessions. Please note there is no cost to attend.

##### **B. Run for Recovery**

SCCCMH Run for Recovery will take place October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021. **This is a live event.** See flyer for more details.

##### **C. MSU Extension**

A packet has been provided to the council to browse and sign up for different CCBHC classes offered by the MSU extension. All community members are welcome to benefit from these classes.

**VI. POLICY REVIEW – Group**  
No policies to review at this time.

**VII. COUNCIL ROUNDTABLE – Group**  
The next NAMI meeting will take place August 24<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 PM. Attendees may choose in person or virtual. For more information email Kaeley Hux at khux@scccmh.org.

There was discussion regarding the placement of masters level clinicians in Yale, Marysville, and Capac schools to support those with mental health issues. This is made possible by CCBHC.

Barbara Belkiewicz shared the educational struggles her granddaughter is experiencing due to the pandemic.

Mark Paulus shared his concerns in regard to citizens refusing the vaccine.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT – N. Thomson**  
Motion to adjourn the meeting accepted at 12:53 P.M.

**IX. NEXT MEETING: Wednesday August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021 from 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM via Lifesize.**  
**Subject to change.**

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