St. Clair County Community Mental Health Authority
Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 15th, 2020

PRESENT: Advisory Committee Members: Liz Martinez, Richard Parker, Mark Paulus, Cyndy Raymo, and Nancy Thomson (Chairperson)

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

ABSENT: Advisory Committee Members: Barbara Belkiewicz, Lisa Clark, Larry Doherty, Cheryl LaFrance, Nancy Levitt, Martha Partipilo, Alice Rieves, Edward Rieves, Amy Sanderson, and Antoinette (Tosia) Tucker.

GUESTS: CMH Staff: Leah Julian (Region 10) and Brooke Sniesak (HCBS)

I. CALL TO ORDER/AGENDA CHANGES – N. Thomson
Nancy called the meeting to order at 12:02 P.M. Agenda updates are as follows:
1. Addition of Run for Recovery under item III.
2. Addition of HCBS Information Presentation and Questionnaire as item V.

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. Run for Recovery
Deb Johnson announced the Annual Run for Recovery is participating in the Blue Water Race Series. Runners are eligible to receive a free jacket if they complete a walk or run in all six races. BWRS is looking for up to three sponsors that can pledge $3,500 each. Recommendations by the council are welcomed.

Deb Johnson shared with the council that she recently met with Lori Sodomier, who offered her critique on the customer satisfaction survey, provided by MDHHS, stating that the questions are written in a way that produces the favorable answer. In turn, SCCMH will look at what questions it will be able to modify. This parent has been invited to join on the Advisory Council.

IV. CMH UPDATES – K. Gallagher
Kathleen Gallagher addressed MDHHS Director Robert Gordon’s vision for the integration of behavioral and physical healthcare. This proposal, to be implemented by 2022, would dismantle the use of PIHPs and introduce SIPS (Specialty Integrated Plan). There will be 3-5 SIPS intended to service the entire state of Michigan—not regionally. An actuarial study will be completed to see if the amount of SIPS anticipated will be viable. There will also be a public CMH-lead option for those who do not wish to have a change in service. Unfortunately this process does not appear promising as it appears to favor privatization. The council is encouraged to submit their feedback. The council is invited to attend a virtual session with Robert Gordon on February 6th, 2020. Please forward RSVPs to Kaeley. More information will be available in the coming weeks.

V. HCBS Q & A – B. Sniesak & L. Julian
Brooke Sniesak and Leah Julian provided the council with a document highlighting the rules of Home and Community Based Services. As HCBS coordinator, Brooke routinely works in the community visiting group homes to ensure they are compliant and up to code. In regard to the questions that arose last meeting, per HCBS each individual’s plan should hold their specific preferences. Specific preferences that are obtained from the individual should create the outline for that individual’s care. Both Brooke Sniesak and Leah Julian are not familiar with the 60% /
40% rule. They advise group home staff to use common sense and creativity in lieu of setting restrictions.

VI. POLICY REVIEW – Group
There are no policies for the council to review at this time.

VII. COUNCIL ROUND TABLE – Group
Mark Paulus will attend the virtual session with Robert Gordon on February 6th, 2020.

Liz Martinez introduced herself as the hospital liaison for Harbor Oaks. Under her title she is responsible for continuation of care, finding residency, and educating the community about substance use disorder. Liz informed the council that Harbor Oaks has undergone extensive modifications in administration and staffing. The council is invited to attend the opening of the new Harbor Oaks hospital, Liz will distribute invites.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT – N. Thomson
Nancy Thomson adjourned the meeting at 12:59 PM.

IX. NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, February 19th, 2020 from 12 PM – 1 PM in Blue Room 108 – 1st Floor

Reviewed and Approved By:

Kathleen Gallagher
Program Director

Respectfully Submitted,

Kaeley Hux
Recording Secretary

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