

Mental Health Advisory Committee

Minutes – July 5, 2018

Members Present	Members Absent	Ex-Officio and Staff Present	Ex-Officio and Staff Absent	Guests
Jeannette Bjorklund	Kevin Bryant	Raymond Crowel	Scott Green	Veronica Wright
Daphne Klein	Scott Davis		Meredith Peace	Alice Zic
Kiki Li	Michelle Grigsby-Hackett		Deborah Phillips	Ziva Azhdam
David Myles	Jennifer Jones			Rita Deng
Celia Serkin	Garrett Mannchen			Larry Simmons
Susan Smith	Tami Mark			Beth Tabachnick
Karishma Sheth				Rich Reynolds
Amy Sutter				Sherry Beach
				Craig Beach
				Hardy Bennett
				Ed (Bunny) Rich
				Jessica Kronstadt
				La Tonia Rich

I. Introductions

Speaker: Dr. Raymond Crowel, Chief Behavioral Health and Crisis Services

Budget concerns for FY 19

Proposed budget decisions are finalized on the County Executive level by mid- February each year with budgets are released to the public March 15.

We have a problem with low numbers of therapists/behavioral health support/etc. especially in Drug court, forensic, Child and Adolescent, JAZZ, Victim services, adult behavioral health. HHS has used contractors to cover some vacant positions. Behavioral health has no mandated positions except the crisis center. Hiring freezes exacerbate the difficulties in filling positions. They cannot be filled even when they are in the budget.

FY18 savings plan, which kept away draconian cuts, included a hiring freeze. While child protective health services and school nurses/counselors and Crisis center are mandated positions to fill, other positions are delayed. Dr. Crowel doesn't know yet if the freeze will continue in FY19. Drug court has approval for 3 new positions to be filled.

The process for recruitment for positions at HHS is sluggish. The process includes:

- 1) Permission to hire
- 2) The Office of Human Resources currently has 2 part time people to process all HHS hires. They review and recruit, process resumes, make formal offers, and process hiring paperwork. This is for all open positions for the HHS office of 1800 people.
- 3) the announcement and advertising of positions takes time

Other HHS issues

The "fee for service plan" paying for HHS services, worked when "everyone" had health insurance. Now that fewer will have health insurance is not clear where the money to cover the uninsured will come from.

Avery road new building received - This project reflects County and State contributions to the facility. The State legislature approved funding of \$310,000 in FY15, \$104,000 in FY16, \$1,026,604 in FY17, and \$1,000,000 in FY18 in grants to the County to support the project. The County anticipates State funding approval of approximately \$1.3 million to design in FY19. State Aid is expected to total \$3.614 million. Not included in this project description form is a \$5 million contribution from the non-profit partner. The county contributed over 5 million for FY-19

Suicide prevention and Substance abuse have been underfunded – hoping to add this to budget 2019-20

HHS staff requests are coming in. Dr. Crowel will sort out what is being taken care in the budget and what needs to be on the wish list. He will share with us for ideas for our priority list.

Behavioral health wants to work on promotion and prevention to lessen the need for treatment and recovery.

HOC has applied for more vouchers for age 18-62 non-elderly disabled population outside of institutional settings. Hoping for 200-800 beds. This will be partnering with LDHA to push for RRP's private general beds. People need to apply to get on the waiting list. Eleven more units are coming to a new building on Thayer Ave.

II. May 2018 minutes – could not be voted on as there was not a quorum

III. Announcements:

- a. Susan Smith is presenting at a conference on hoarding task force.
- b. Dr. Crowel is working to get more trauma informed training for teachers and staff.
- c. Daphne Klein is conducting trainings on offering alternatives to suicide rather than just saying “don’t do it” and on non-violent communication. More trainings will start in the fall. She will share the schedule with the committee. She recommends a book by Marshall Rosenberg, Nonviolent Communication.
- d. Karishma Sheth from Everymind stated that Virtual listen and learn screening of the S word. Diane will forward the flyer for the S word showing to MHAC members

IV. **Meeting Adjourned 9pm**