

## JUNIATA VALLEY BEHAVIORAL & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Local Authorities: Boards of Commissioners of Huntingdon, Mifflin & Juniata Counties

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### CITIZEN ADVISORY BOARD

Public Meeting March 28, 2022 Minutes

#### **BOARD MEMBERS: PRESENT**

Cory Sisto  
Valerie Postal  
Wendy Melius  
Commissioner Robert Postal  
Commissioner Scott Walls (excused at 4:30pm)  
Brenda Stayrook  
Chuck Culbertson

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF:**

Kathy Whalen, Administrator  
Lisa Bollinger, Administrative Assistant

#### **BOARD MEMBERS: ABSENT**

James Drayer  
Stacey Leach  
Commissioner Alice Gray

The meeting of the Citizens Advisory Board (C.A.B.) was called to order at 4:04 p.m. by Brenda Stayrook, Vice-Chair. The meeting was properly advertised and posted as per regulations. A hybrid meeting format allowed for in person attendance in the JVBDS-Large Conference Room and virtual access via the Zoom Meeting Platform and the Zoom Meeting conference line. At this time, it was determined there was a quorum. Vice-Chair Stayrook reminded all attendees the meeting is being recorded for public record.

#### **2. Public Comment - none**

#### **3. December 13, 2021 Minutes**

Motion to approve by Commissioner Postal; seconded by Wendy Melius Motion adopted unanimously.

#### **4. Membership**

Lynne Dutcher has resigned her position on the board. Brenda Stayrook has offered to continue as Vice-Chair; however, she does wish to accept the position of Chair. With no volunteers from the immediate membership in attendance, Kathy Whalen suggested a questionnaire be emailed to the membership regarding nominations for officer open positions.

A reminder was provided there remains one opening for Huntingdon County and two each for Mifflin and Juniata County. Suggestions included Mifflin and Juniata County Children and Youth Directors; and the owner of the non-profit organization, DAILY CONNECTIONS.

#### **5. Committee Reports**

Brenda Stayrook reported for the **CASSP Advisory Committee (Children's Mental Health Committee)**. Meetings are held monthly with an educational presentation; this month's was Greif & Loss. Number of adolescents reported in Residential Treatment Facilities were (4) Huntingdon County youths, (2) Mifflin County youths and (0) Juniata County youths. Mifflin County School District received CCBH approval for a school based program in Lewistown

Elementary. The new partial program has opened in the Huntingdon Middle School serving adolescents from all three counties; eight are currently enrolled with a max of 11 students.

Lisa Bollinger reported for the **Mental Health Committee** who were invited to attend the quarterly meetings where 18 behavioral health agencies had representatives in attendance. Further explanations of the Children's programs were provided. Community School Based Behavioral Health is a team who provide services that span the home, school and community and are available at any time. Kathy Whalen included that is provided a consistency of counseling.

Chuck Culbertson reported for the **Intellectual Disabilities/Autism Committee** noting providers and clients weathered the pandemic well. The highlighted concern is staff shortage crisis occurring among many of the providers in the area.

Valerie Postal reported for the **Early Intervention Committee** noting providers offered capacity reports with many continuing to offer hybrid supports. JVBDS' annual determination stated a need for some assistance in the category of Strengthening Partnerships, which was based off 4 family survey questions from last year. JVBDS needed a 95% to meet requirements and averaged 93% for each question. Providers continue to support their staff to achieve fidelity through the Coaching model. Writing outcomes training is expected to be available this Spring after another series of revisions.

## **6. Fiscal Update**

- a. Ms. Kathy Whalen, Administrator reviewed the FY 21/22 Amendments and Contracts, noting MENTAL HEALTH Contract Updates included 7 of the MH Contracts will receive amendments for a language change to increase the reimbursement rate to equal the Managed Care Rate effective January 1, 2022. Allocations are not expected to change
- b. IDD Contract Updates include a new contract for Empowering Visions, LLC for \$650 funding to support one Intellectual Disabilities consumer's choice of in HAB AIDE supports. Although, the client denied services, the contract will remain in place.
- c. EARLY INTERVENTION Contract Updates included monies for those EI providers choosing to participate in the COACHING training. Sovia Therapy will receive \$1,000 increased allocation. An increase in allocation was provided to Melissa Gehlman, whose schedule change now allows her to increase her client base. New provider, MOVING MOUNTAIN PEDIATRIC THERAPY (location Franklin/Fulton) will receive a contract allocation of \$5,000 to serve PT and OT clients in southern Huntingdon and Mifflin County.
- d. JVBDS is performing a five year fiscal review of contract allocations in comparison to actual expenditures to determine the reality of contractual values and to be able to budget for additional services and/or new programs.

## **7. Program Reports**

### **MENTAL HEALTH:**

- The 2021 Mental Health Commitment Data was presented for review and discussion. The overall goal of the Crisis and Delegate staff is divergence from the involuntary commitment. Concerns continue for extended wait times for adolescents in Emergency Rooms waiting on inpatient available beds; it was noted the limited availability of facilities within the HMJ Region.
- JVBDS continues to work with the Mifflin County Correctional Facility and the Huntingdon County Jail to provide funding for Mental Health resources in both locations. The Mifflin County Co-Responder grant ends October 2022; and JVBDS should be able to continue to fund the position moving forward. The Huntingdon County Co-Responder program is expected to be funded with BHARP reinvestment dollars in the near future.
- There was a discussion regarding the state budget funding for mental health services with a sustainability focus. Mifflin County Commissioners are writing a resolution to support increasing MH funding.
- The threat of a cut in funding to counties who have not completed "recommended" reporting seems to have calmed. OMHSAS is to present a webinar regarding the policy and procedures surrounding this reporting; although the identical information is available from a county program's income and expense report.

- JVBDS has announced the LIGHT THE WAY green light campaign for May, Mental Health Awareness Month. The three counties have agreed to sign a proclamation. In addition, the Juniata Valley Out of the Darkness Walk committee will be providing green ribbons for parking meters in the Lewistown Borough, Mifflintown Borough and Huntingdon Borough.

**INTELLECTUAL DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES/AUTISM:**

- Incident Management recorded (1) recent case of COVID positive.
- Office of Developmental Programs (ODP) has issued a funding allocation for staff to support the Medically Complex Children’s Waiver approximately \$97,000-\$98,000 through March 2024; and an additional \$19,000 for gap services. Immediately, the current open position on the ID Team will take precedence for staffing.
- Changes reported to the February Report included in the meeting packet included the two consolidated slots were provided to two brothers.

**EARLY INTERVENTION:**

- The new monthly reporting for EI services was presented to the membership in a separation email. EI intakes for the month of February were unusually high.
- The Governor’s Budget proposes a 7% increase for Early Intervention services. Expectation is that the State budget will be approved early.
- JVBDS has re-scheduled the Infant Mental Health 101 Training originally planned in 2019 pre-COVID. The virtual 6 hour training presented by Erin Troup with SPROUT, Center for Emotional Growth and Development on June 15<sup>th</sup> and June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2022.

**8. Old Business**

Program Committees will continue with the board membership invited to attend their respective April program meetings. MH will meet April 11<sup>th</sup>, IDD/A will meet April 12<sup>th</sup>, and EI will meet April 28<sup>th</sup>. Additional information will be forwarded.

**9. New Business**

None at this time.

Motion to adjourn made by Cory Sisto; seconded by Valerie Postal. Motion adopted unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 5:24 p.m.

**Next Scheduled Meeting via the hybrid model: in-person at the JVBDS Large Conference Room or via the Zoom Meeting Platform on June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 4:00pm**