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CITIZEN ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

September 25, 2023

BOARD MEMBERS: PRESENT IN PERSON

Commissioner Robert Postal
Valerie Postal
Cory Sisto, Chair

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF:

Kathy Whalen, Administrator
Lisa Miller, Administrative Officer

BOARD MEMBERS: PRESENT VIA ZOOM

Commissioner Scott Walls
Cinda Welsh
Commissioner Scott Walls
Wendy Melius
Chuck Culbertson – Excused at 5pm
Brenda Stayrook
Robert Digon – Excused at 5:30pm
Commissioner Alice Gray – Excused at 5:20pm
Leigh Keiser
Tom Weyandt – Excused at 5pm
Polly Digon – Excused at 5:30pm

BOARD MEMBERS: ABSENT

Stacey Leach
Natasha Ufema
Stephanie Porch

1. The meeting of the Citizens Advisory Board (C.A.B.) was called to order at 4:08 p.m. by Cory Sisto-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.
2. **Public Comment** - none
3. **June 26, 2023 Minutes**
Motion to approve by Chuck Culbertson; seconded by Valerie Postal. Motion adopted unanimously.
4. **Membership**
Discussion of the nominating committee regarding selecting a slate of officers for 2024 ended with a motion by Commissioner Scott Walls to suspend nominations with the current slate of officers agreeing to remain in place for 2024: Cory Sisto, Chair Brenda Stayrook, Vice-Chair Wendy Melius, Secretary; seconded by Chuck Culbertson. Unanimously approved.

The membership was reminded the duties of each officer are listed in the by-laws.

5. Committee and Program Reports

Child and Adolescent Social Service Program (CASSP): The September 6th 2023 meeting report was given by Brenda Stayrook. There were 8 adolescents in Residential Treatment Facilities (RTF); Youth Advocate Programs, the provider of Student Assistant Programs (SAP) is struggling to find staff for the schools, respite care is provided by Merakey who is in need of more families willing to provide the service, CenClear is the only provider within HMJ to provide family base services, the Partial program is at capacity, and BHARP will be reviewing the school based training because they believe CCBH is moving away from the fidelity of the programs. CASSP has met with both local hospitals – Geisinger-Lewistown and Penn Highlands-Huntingdon to review the precertification process to limit Emergency Room Time for adolescents. Juniata County School District hosted a Trauma Training.

Discussion: Kathy Whalen provided a clarification that children in RTF may remain longer than necessary because community base programming required with discharge planning have waitlists. Ms. Whalen included that the CASSP Coordinator-Megan Neugebauer remains involved with treatment meetings and discharge planning while a child is inpatient.

Mental Health: Kathy Whalen reported Bob Henry-Deputy Administrator is currently coordinating the CRISIS INTERVENTION TEAM Training. With regards to the state budget, we are not part of the school mental health \$100 million allotted for the Department of Education to place a social worker in every school; and we have not been told what portion of the \$20 million allotted for Mental Health Base Fund Services will be issued to HMJ. Pennsylvania Association of County Administrators of Mental Health and Developmental Services (PACA) is planning to advocate for more money for next year's budget. Commissioner Postal added County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania (CCAP) will be voting on their priorities in November, noting they have a very active committee to push their priorities. Commitment data was reviewed from the report included. The Out of the Darkness Walk was announced for this Sunday, October 1st at KISH PARK.

Intellectual Disabilities & Autism: Incident issues discussed with the electronic Medication Administration Record System and the inaccuracy with reporting. Staffing issues have leveled out for most providers and all programs are accepting referrals; however, providers are unable to advance without additional staff. There is currently (1) opening for Residential Home placement in HMJ. Office of Developmental Programs (ODP) has proposed to implement Selective Contracting for Residential and Supports Coordination (SC) services and is currently in public comment. JVBDS will be audited by ODP on April 24th or April 25th, 2024; the self-assessment was submitted and all policies have been revised and/or updated by Ms. Whalen. Updates will be provided at the December Meeting. Data was reviewed from the report included.

Early Intervention: Valerie Postal reported from the Provider Meeting notes that many providers have openings for all services. HMJ was 6th statewide with a Family Survey return rate of 38.3%. The session notes have been updated and training is offered on the EITA portal. HMJ Coaching Core Leadership Team has partnered with Messiah College Masters' level OT Program. The presentation is expected in December. HMJ now has 16 providers and all providers are involved with the Coaching Process. EI referrals remain high as the report included with the agenda was reviewed.

6. Fiscal Update

Kathy Whalen shared the recent amendments to the JVBDS contracts for fiscal year 2023-2024. With the non-renewal of the Keystone Human Services contact; additional funds were applied to the Service Access and Management, Inc (SAM) contract to provide the Supported Living Program. One original full-time staff continued with SAM and is currently serving a full case load. Step-by-Step, Inc. was contracted to provide Community Residential Rehabilitation Services within the existing Mifflin and Huntingdon County homes. They provided a smooth transition for all clients and staff involved.

In addition, JVBDS' current auditor is phasing toward retirement and provided notice to stop services. Boyer & Ritter has been chosen as the new Auditor starting with FY 23/24. An address update was provided for Best Rate Dictation known as Enlighten Psychiatric Services. A new Early Intervention provider, Kids First Affiliated Services, has been contracted to provide all services in Huntingdon County.

7. Old Business

Junior Membership. Cory Sisto will review the BY-LAWS regarding participation. Commissioners Postal and Walls to invite Career and Technology students to participate as a member of the public while the BY-LAWS are being reviewed.

8. New Business

Block Grant Public Hearings have been completed. Kathy Whalen, Administrator will forward a copy of JVBDS' written portion of the Block Grant for review. The membership is encouraged to attend future public hearings and will receive a calendar invitation when FY 24/25 have been scheduled. The Mental Health priorities continue to be: Children's Programming, the Co-Responder Program, and the collaboration of BHARP to establish a regional Long Term Structured Residence (LTSR). BHARP is proposing 4 for our Region and JVBDS has requested 4 beds. The proposal is due October 2023.

A discussion on the changing Medicaid led a provider of Intellectual Developmental Disabilities Residential Homes to request additional guidance/training on the process to include complicated situations – for example an individual who is currently in REHAB and their WAIVER is placed into reserved capacity on the 31st day in REHAB; their income then increases during the stay in REHAB and potentially they become over income for their Medical Assistance and lose their Medical Assistance. Kathy Whalen will reach out for a trainer/presenter.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

Next Scheduled Meeting via the hybrid model: in-person at the JVBDS Large Conference Room or via the Zoom Meeting Platform on December 4, 2023 at 4:00pm

