**DAUPHIN COUNTY MH/ID PROGRAM BOARD**  
**MEETING MINUTES AND PLANNER**

**MEETING DATE:** March 30, 2017

**MEETING PLACE:** CMU, 1100 South Cameron Street, Harrisburg

**ATTENDANCE:**
- **Board Members:** Judy Vercher, Barbara Biancone, Margaret Houser,
- **Staff:** Dan Eisenhauer, Paul Geffert, Cheryl Gundrum, Renee Robison
- **Guests:** Dan Sausman, CMU; Leah Hannah, PCS

**MEETING GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:**
- Education Topic
- Administrator’s Report
- Committee Reports
- Fiscal Report
- Community Input

**DECISIONS:**
- Due to not having a quorum, the approval of the January 26, 2017, Advisory Board minutes will be at the next Board meeting

**ACTION TO BE TAKEN:**
- None at this time

**NEXT MEETING DATE:**  
May 25, 2017, at CMU, 1100 South Cameron Street, Harrisburg. The agenda will include a presentation, as well as the Administrator’s Report and Committee Reports.
Welcome and Introductions
Judy Vercher called the meeting to order. Judy welcomed everyone in attendance, and introductions followed.

Approval of the January 26, 2017 Board Meeting Minutes
Due to not having a quorum, the approval of the minutes will be at the next Board meeting.

Administrator’s Report

The following report summarizes major MH/ID program concerns, updates and initiatives over the past two months. Dr. John McGonigle, Assistant Professor of Psychiatry and Rehabilitation Science Technology, University of Pittsburgh, School of Medicine provided training to about 100 participants on 2/10/17. Feedback was positive. Staff are processing FY 17-18 provider contracts. We have contracted with a computer programmer who will redesign our in house SQL database user interface and migrate our database platform. This project is expected to take about one year.

State/Department of Human Services Updates

- DHS has announced a delay in contracting with PH-MCOs because several companies have either appealed or filed court motions following DHS’s announcement of the results of their procurement process that would have disputed HealthChoices physical health coverage for about 30,000 Dauphin County residents.
- ODP received numerous comments and negative feedback from some providers, consumers, and family members regarding their proposed five-year waiver renewal requiring licensed day programs and workshops to increase community participation in compliance with CMS final rules. ODP revised their proposal to delay the implementation and to lower that standard. ODP also published their fiscal appendices and draft rates. ODP will submit the final version of their waiver renewal on or before 3/31/17, with proposed implementation of 7/1/17.
- OMHSAS, Counties, and Providers are preparing to implement “Value Based Purchasing” which will become a HealthChoices Contract mandate as of January 1, 2018. The concept is to move reimbursement models away from Fee-for-Service or Unit based reimbursement to purchasing outcomes tied to the value of service provided. The behavioral health system will have some challenges implementing these concepts, especially for people with serious mental illness.

Crisis Intervention

- Crisis Intervention briefly had 2.5 vacancies, but we hired one person, so we have a full-time second shift vacancy and one part-time vacancy.

MH Program

- Our First Episode Psychosis Grant, CAPSTONE: Clinical Assessment, Peer Support, Treatment and On-going Education/Employment with the promotional tag line of “promoting achievement and success for young adults” is operational and has had two referrals. The goal is to intervene early and effectively for older teens and young adults with a psychotic disorder to improve treatment outcomes and improve functional abilities. Grant partners are PPI, CMU and the YWCA.

- We had our first two people achieve one-year housing stability in our Bridge Rental Subsidy Program and both now qualify for Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher from the Housing Authority of the County of Dauphin. We also had two applicants approved to move into Sunflower Fields housing development.

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EI Program

- The EI Program recently had their onsite monitoring conducted by the Office of Child Development and Early Learning who monitored the County, the CMU service coordination and the provider’s adherence to timeframes and documentation. There were some recommendations for improvements in documentation, but OCDEL staff stated that we have an outstanding program. Despite some challenges related to increasing caseloads OCDEL noted evidence of our collective priority to put families first, which was apparent across the program.

ID Program

- ID staff convened a meeting to discuss issues and obstacles and solutions to help impact our ID day program services to move towards the goal of increased community participation.
- We will also be working to assess the impact of ODP proposed residential rates on providers, to assure that providers will be able to meet people’s needs with the proposed rate structure.
- The ID program continues its focus on being an Employment First county. Our third Project Search class, the Class of 2017 will begin April 3rd.

Presentation – EI Presentation – Cheryl Gundrum

A brochure was handed out regarding SPEC. Highlights are below:

There was a grant received from the Office of Child Development and Early Learning for the SPEC (Supporting Positive Environments for Children) program. SPEC is a positive behavior intervention support model for Early Childhood Education Centers who want to provide an environment that fosters socially and emotionally competent young learners.

SPEC was formed when a group of stakeholders came together to address the increased expulsion rates in early childhood centers. The stakeholders reviewed research and established framework for the development of SPEC.

SPEC facilitators come to the center for a free consultation during which they complete a needs assessment. The facilitators hold PQAS certification and are able to provide DPW hours for on-site training. Kindercare is participating in this program. They have been dealing with a lot of challenging behaviors at their center. Kindercare is open to looking at their current practices and this program helps parents be more open also. The state is looking at making this program easier for all childcare centers. Their director is becoming trained and can train employees at other centers. The Director agreed that this is helping him with teacher retention.

Benefits:
Benefit Children
- Increase social skills and decrease need for behavioral support
- Decrease challenging behavior and reduce center expulsions – once kids get expelled that young it continues throughout school
- Increase social emotional competence for all
- Eliminate time-outs and spend more time learning
Benefit Teachers
- Increase understanding of development of social and emotional wellness and decrease staff turnover
- More intentional teaching and support of children’s development
- Increase staff satisfaction and retention rates

Benefit the Program
- Less time addressing challenging behavior
- Clear, articulated and implemented policies and procedures
- Stronger collaboration with mental health providers
- Increase satisfaction of staff and families

Committee Reports

**Mental Health Committee** – The minutes from the February 27, 2017, meeting were distributed. This committee has developed a work plan for 2016-2017 and this was provided. The purpose statement was also distributed.

**Intellectual Disabilities Committee** – The minutes from the February 7, 2017, meeting were distributed. There was a discussion on Participant Directed Services. There are three ways that individuals/families can receive services: vendor/fiscal, agency with choice, and using a traditional provider.

Participants who are directing their own services were sent a survey. The results of the survey are to learn what is working and not working in order to identify strategies for increasing the number of individuals who direct their own services. Discussion points and recommendations were noted.

The ID Committee has greater family involvement and this is a very active committee.

**Nominating Committee** – It was noted that two candidates were ineligible. Still looking for 3 Board members, but we do have 2 possibilities for the Board.

**Executive Committee** – No report.

**Fiscal Report**
Paul Geffert distributed the Budget vs. Expenses report by cost center. Paul noted that he is starting to see the first bills submitted for the Capstone grant. At this time there is surplus in MH and ID. Since Medicaid expansion, more people were moved to MA, creating a surplus in MH. In ID, more people went from base funding to waiver funding, creating a surplus in ID. HAP is dramatically underfunded. There is less money, but the demand keeps going up. Both D&A and C&Y don’t have leftover money this year from the Block Grant to help with additional expenses.

**Community Input and Other Comments**
None at this time.

**Adjournment**
There were no additional comments or announcements, and the meeting was adjourned.