MEETING DATE: September 28, 2017

MEETING PLACE: CMU, 1100 South Cameron Street, Harrisburg

ATTENDANCE:

Board Members: Judy Vercher, Liz Pliszka, Gregg Davis, Bonnie Rice, Glen Bartlett

Staff: Dan Eisenhauer, Shirley Keith Knox, Paul Geffert, Renee Robison, Linda Keller

Guests: Ben Johnson, Pressly Ridge; Tracey Johnson, Goodwill; Jasmine Rodriguez, Project Search; Monah Rodriguez, Project Search

MEETING GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:

- Education Topic
- Administrator’s Report
- Committee Reports
- Fiscal Report
- Community Input

DECISIONS:

- Approval of July 27, 2017, Advisory Board minutes

ACTION TO BE TAKEN:

- None at this time

NEXT MEETING DATE:

November 30, 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 July 27, 2017, Board Meeting Minutes
The motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes.

Administrator’s Report
The administrator’s report was distributed. The following report summarizes major MH/ID program concerns, updates and initiatives over the past two months. In July, I provided an update on the proposed changes to the Affordable Care Act. Days later, all of the repeal and replace options were defeated. Two months later another attempt was made to repeal and replace the ACA. The Proposed Graham Cassidy bill had many of the same negative outcomes as prior iterations: less protections for Americans with pre-existing conditions, higher insurance premiums, more uninsured people, and significant reductions to Medicaid funding. On Tuesday, the bill was withdrawn without a vote.

State/Department of Human Services Updates
- Plans to unify four state agencies: Department of Health, Department of Human Services, Department of Aging, And the Department of Drug And Alcohol were stalled by the legislative process. Teresa Miller, previously the Secretary of the Department of Insurance, had been nominated by Governor Wolf to lead the unified agency. She was subsequently appointed to be the Secretary of DHS.
- DHS provided an update on the HealthChoices Physical Health Managed Care Organization selection process. “Several of the MCOs that were not selected filed bid protests. After those protests were denied, the MCOs appealed those decisions to Commonwealth Court. As a result, the department is in what is called a stay. That means that we are unable to move forward with the MCOs that were selected for negotiations in physical health HealthChoices until the Commonwealth Court issues a decision on the pending appeals.” In the meantime, each zone and MCO will remain exactly as it is today. If the previously announced PH-MCO selection proceeds, some 30,000 Dauphin County residents will have to select a new PH-MCO.
- ODP proposed a new “Community Living Waiver” for public comment, which is similar to the existing Person/Family Directed Supports Waiver (P/FDS) except the proposed waiver has a $70,000 cap and can include life sharing and supported living.
- OMHSAS, Counties, and Providers are preparing to implement “Value Based Purchasing”, which will become a HealthChoices Contract mandate as of January 1, 2018. We submitted comments on the proposed contract language, part of which we strongly oppose. 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.
- HB 1233 or The Assisted Outpatient Treatment bill, which proposes to change the existing Mental Health Procedures Act passed the house 189-0 and included amendments based on input from the Pennsylvania Association of County Administrators for Mental Health and Developmental Services (PACA MH/DS). It is now Senate Bill 599 and again PACA MH/DS provided input on proposed amendments that will improve the bill. PACA MH/DS is neutral on the bill.

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Crisis Intervention

- Crisis Intervention has 2 vacancies. We are in the hiring process.
- Crisis participated in an in-service training for the entire teaching staff of Susquehanna School District (4 schools in 2 days) at the end of August.
- Crisis also provided a training to Pinnacle’s “Nurse Triage” Program on 8/31 to assist their staff with managing consumers with MH needs.
- Also, in the coming weeks, Crisis will be meeting with a community-based suicide prevention program in Derry Township called “We Matter” to discuss how we can work together to increase MH awareness and support in their area.
- Crisis will be meeting with staff from Hamilton Health to develop a training for their staff in the beginning of October.

MH Program

- A Residential Treatment Facility Workgroup was formed by the five (5) HealthChoices Counties, PerformCare and the BH-MCO oversight agency, CABHC to assess and improve several issues related to the use of RTFs in the mental health system. Some areas of concern to be explored include: education of psychiatrists on RTF effectiveness and other more effective types of services, alternative service development in lieu of RTF, family engagement in treatment, and identification of trauma consultants to assist RTFs in service outcomes.
- County MH staff are working with Gaudenzia to plan and implement program improvement in a forensic CRR program. Changes will re-focus the program toward individualized support, skill acquisition and personal recovery.
- Collaboration with school districts continues to be successful. Every Dauphin County district is engaged in expanding their MH system knowledge, learning how to assist families get Medical Assistance benefits for their child, identifying potential projects for the K-2nd grade population based upon a survey from 200 teachers, guidance counselor and school nurses, and improving Student Assistance program services through the use of a suicide risk and assessment tool.
- Mental health staff are wrapping up their outcomes and data for FY 16-17 and have several projected goals in FY17-18: 1) continue to improve quality of forensic MH services and processes, 2) complete an assessment of The JEREMY Project, 3) collaborate with individual teams to transition prepared adults out of licensed CRR programs into independent living and (4 and 5) continue Guiding Good Choices and CAPSTONE projects.

EI Program

- The EI program received their official monitoring results from the Office of Child Development and Early Learning, and our program “meets requirements” which means, our “program’s strong performance demonstrates a high level of compliance with the indicators, which in turn provides evidence that [we] are appropriately and effectively implementing early intervention services.
- EI has started a training and research project with UC Davis. A group of 5 professionals is working on Community Early Start Denver Model (C-ESDM) training materials, and a control group of 4 professionals is working on general autism strategies and interventions. Families are being identified to work with each EI provider involved in the study. Children will be assessed periodically over a 6-month time frame. Our plan, once the study is complete, is to train all interested professionals in our system using the C-ESDM tools. This model incorporates child-directed relationship based intervention strategies with structured ABA strategies and parent coaching practices.
- EI started the Supporting Positive Environments for Children (SPEC) Grant with a child care provider in Halifax. The RockStart child care center will be working with us through June on using positive behavior practices throughout their program. The children in this Center then
transition to the Halifax Elementary School, which is also using program-wide PBIS, so we are also developing a stronger relationship with the School District as they also support this child care center with these practices.

- EI is improving the use of higher tech communication devices and/or iPad apps to children under 3 and their families and continuing collaboration with IU 15 for training and awareness for staff. Children are increasingly transitioning at age 3 with a variety of low and high tech options for communication. We are also expanding the number of professionals in our system who can assist families and their EI teams through this very specialized process.

**ID Program**

- Fiscal Year Preparations were completed. ISP plans were approved for 6 months because there were so many “moving” changes. ID staff are now reauthorizing for full year plans and all plans will be completed by September 30th.
- We are incorporating a new Target Population for HCB waivers, for people who have a diagnosis of Autism with or without a diagnosis of ID. The state plan for Targeted Service Management (case management) for this population has not been approved by CMS yet, but people with autism that are contacting the CMU for an intake are being tracked and will be contacted as soon as TSM changes are approved in the state plan. July and August intakes are reflecting 25% ID, 75% ASD, but the total number of intakes for August was 25, so it is not an overwhelming number.
- ODP notified us of increased capacity in the P/FDS waiver by nine new opportunities.
- Dauphin County is working with Allegheny County and ODP to pilot a learning collaborative for a clinical and quality review process called Life Experience Assessment Protocol (LEAP) SIS project. The reviews will help inform teams about the quality of services and result in recommendations to teams for improving Individualized Service Plans, additional training, additional types of services or other recommendations including exceptions to established departmental rates.
- Capital Area Employment First is again recognizing businesses that are hiring people with disabilities on Monday, October 23rd at the CAIU. This event recognizes businesses that value a diverse workforce and who have gone “above and beyond” to hire and support individuals with disabilities in the workforce. This event is part of the National Disability Employment Awareness Month, an annual awareness campaign that takes place each October.

There was a question regarding this Administrator’s report if this Board had comments on the outpatient psychiatric regulation changes. Dan stated to ask Rose Schultz for a copy of the comments. It has taken 4 years to get to the legal review process. There is an independent regulatory commission that will look at the comments to make recommendations after assessing the comments. Pressly Ridge has noticed an increase in suicides and their intention is to expand to other levels of care.

*Presentation – Project Search – Jasmine Rodriguez, Shirley Keith Knox, Linda Keller*

Highlights from the PowerPoint presentation are below:

Project Search began in 1996 within Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center. There are over 300 Project Search sites across the world. The Dauphin County Adult Program’s goal is for each participant to achieve competitive employment.
Who is eligible?
Eligible individuals include those who:
- Are at least 18 years of age
- Graduated from high school
- Open with the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation
- Have the appropriate hygiene, social and communication skills
- Have the ability to take direction and to change behavior if needed
- Have an independent transportation resource
- Have a desire to work

Curriculum:
- Team building
- Technology
- Self-advocacy
- Financial literacy
- Preparing for employment
- Maintaining

Internship rotations last 10 to 12 weeks. Interns participate in three rotations during the program throughout Dauphin County government departments.

Intern Sites Include:
- Juvenile Probation
- Children and Youth Services
- Facilities Maintenance
- Human Resources
- Courts
- Parks and Recreation
- Voter Registration
- District Justice Zozo’s office

Why Project Search?
- Improved opportunities to be successful in the labor market
- Improved opportunity to become employed
- Decrease reliance on disability systems
- Improved community relationships and friendships

Jasmine Rodriguez was the intern at MH/ID and she had typed letters, meeting notes, agendas and lists. She also made phone calls to people for reminders of meetings, copied packets, printed documents, filed and shredded documents. She helped with a lot of extra work and had learned new skills, using Outlook and Word. Jasmine had learned PowerPoint and she helped to create this presentation.
Each year there is an increase in applicants who want to participate in Project Search and it is an excellent program. Judy Vercher stated that it is very impressive and thanked them for the presentation.

**Intellectual Disabilities Committee** – The minutes from the August 1 and September 5, 2017, meetings were distributed. There are major changes in implementation of new waiver amendments. Now children under the age of 9 will have access to waiver-funded services. In addition, the target population includes individuals who have an Autism Spectrum disorder. These individuals can now be enrolled and considered for waiver funding.

**Nominating Committee** – Dan will circulate the listing of categories of what Board members are still needed. It was noted that they do have to be a Dauphin County resident.

**Executive Committee** – No report.

**MH Committee** – The minutes from August 21, 2017, were distributed. The presentation at this committee meeting was PCIT – Parent/Child Interactive Therapy. PCIT is an evidence-based program for young children ages 2-7 that display signs of disruptive behaviors. It places an emphasis on changing how the parents and child interact with each other. The program usually consists of 16-20 weekly sessions. At these sessions, parents interact with their child while having an ear piece or “bug” in their ear so coaches watching behind mirrored glass can give feedback on their interactions. It is always a 1:1 focus.

ACT – ACT – Assertive Community Treatment is an evidence-based program for those with a severe or persistent mental illness. They must be 18 or older, and need to meet certain requirements to be enrolled in this program. They develop a treatment plan specific for each individual and can include things such as life skills training, employment supports, and medication management among many others. ACT encourages consumers to take charge of their own recovery and their lives.

**Fiscal Report**
Paul Geffert distributed the Budget vs. Expenses report by cost center. All columns are now 100%.

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

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