DAUPHIN COUNTY MH/ID PROGRAM BOARD
MEETING MINUTES AND PLANNER

MEETING DATE: November 30, 2017

MEETING PLACE: CMU, 1100 South Cameron Street, Harrisburg

ATTENDANCE:
Board Members: Judy Vercher, Liz Pliszka, Gregg Davis, Margaret Houser, Curt Bauer, Glen Bartlett

Staff: Dan Eisenhauer, Shirley Keith Knox, Rose Schultz, Paul Geffert, Renee Robison,

Guests: Ben Johnson, Pressly Ridge; Sam Hoffer, Keystone; Janice Baker, Keystone; Greg McCutcheon, CMU

MEETING GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:

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

DECISIONS:
- Approval of September 28, 2017, Advisory Board minutes
- Approval of Board Nominee to be sent to the Commissioners
- Motion made and seconded for Liz Pliszka to be the Present of this Board and Gregg Davis to be the Vice President.

ACTION TO BE TAKEN:
- None at this time
NEXT MEETING DATE:
January 25, 2018, 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 September 28, 2017, Board Meeting Minutes
The motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes.

Approval of Board Nominee
The motion was made and seconded to approve the nominee to this Advisory Board.

Plaque presented to Judy Vercher
Dan Eisenhauer presented a plaque to Judy Vercher for her 9 years’ of service on this Advisory Board. Judy acknowledged going from 40+ years’ experience working with patients at her previous job to being on this Advisory Board and seeing the marvelous growth of helping people in the MH/ID program. Rose Schultz noted that she had met Judy in 1990.

A plaque would have also been presented to Bonnie Rice, but she was not at this meeting.

Administrator’s Report
The following report summarizes major MH/ID program concerns, updates and initiatives over the past two months.

State/Department of Human Services Updates
- Lynn Kovich was hired as the Deputy Secretary for the DHS Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (OMHSAS) effective 11/13/17. She has extensive experience in MH and Housing and also served in a similar role in the state of New Jersey.
- ODP continues to progress on implementing a third waiver program (subject to CMS approval), and to expand Targeted Services Management (TSM), case management for people waiting for services, as well as several other concurrent initiatives centered on system change to promote community integration and independence for people with an ID or diagnosed with autism.
- DHS announced a delay in the implementation of Community HealthChoices or Managed Long Term Services for our County until January 1, 2020.
- HB 1233, now Senate Bill 599 or The Assisted Outpatient Treatment bill which proposes to change the existing Mental Health Procedures Act for the criteria for involuntary outpatient treatment is moving through the Senate legislative process. I attended a stakeholder meeting yesterday held by Chief of Staff of the Chair of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee, Senator Lisa Baker, to discuss various stakeholder concerns about the bill. Portions of the bill remain contention to various constituent groups.

Crisis Intervention
- Effective 12/1/17, Crisis Intervention will implement a revised 302 Commitment form, (Section VI Physician’s Examination) that is unique to Dauphin County and is approved by OMHSAS. This
will clarify that our commitment process is compliant with the Mental Health Procedures Act and that our process conforms to case law subsequent to several court challenges about commitment processes in the Commonwealth. This implementation includes training staff and Emergency Department physicians.

- Crisis Intervention has a number of vacancies and 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.
- We held a corporate compliance meeting on November 2, 2017, which is a review of a random sample of 10% of Crisis records billed to PerformCare to assure that our documentation supported the billing and that all required elements of the chart are present. There were no findings to report.

**MH Program**

- Upper Dauphin School District completed a five-session Guiding Good Choices group for parents of children ages 9-14. The group is facilitated by trained parents. Parents receive a stipend for facilitating and dinner is provided. Two other school districts are planning groups in late winter/spring. Guiding Good Choices helps parents and their children make sound decisions and avoid problem behaviors.
- County staff are available to work with interagency teams to facilitate successful discharges to independent housing from licensed residential programs. In FY17-18, we have identified 21 persons. Often times subsidized housing is needed because persons are on fixed incomes or have low wages from work.
- Children’s MH staff learned about the national Building Bridges Initiative as more States, regions and communities have re-examined the effectiveness of Residential Treatment Facilities for children with serious emotional disturbances and/or intellectual/developmental disabilities. The other Counties and the Managed Care Organization will benefit from a presentation about the initiative in January.
- More opportunities for independent and subsidized housing are being investigated by the County MH program using reinvestment funds. These include, but are not limited to, master Leasing and SMART Homes.

**EI Program**

- Dauphin County EI has been invited to participate in another research project from the American Institute for Research around early literacy and language. The study will test two practices that have already been evaluated as evidence-based, one is PC Talks, which is a language/literacy intervention strategy, and the other is a progress monitoring strategy called Individual Growth and Development Indicators. Neither of these are new, but the research will evaluate the results of using them together and using them across EI and other home visiting programs.

**ID Program**

- The ID Department has two long-time staff members retiring soon. Shirley Keith Knox is retiring mid-January 2018, and Joy Hafer will be retiring late December 2017. Both staff have made significant contributions that have helped to make our ID Program a leader in many ways, but most importantly they helped to improve the lives of the people we serve.
- Because of these transitions, we were permitted to hire an interim Deputy ID Administrator. Roberta (Bobbi) Segin was promoted effective 10/9/17 to be the Interim ID Deputy Administrator. Bobbi will assume the Deputy position upon Shirley’s retirement. We are now working on filling the vacancy for Bobbi’s position, and also for Joy’s.
• We continue to work on incorporating the new Target Population for people who have a
diagnosis of Autism with or without a diagnosis of ID into ODP waivers managed by the County
Program. We are coordinating with the Bureau of Autism Services (BAS) and ODP to offer
intakes and eligibility determinations for Dauphin County residents who are on the BAS’ Adult
Autism Waiver “interest list.”
• Dauphin County continues to work with Allegheny County and ODP to pilot a learning
collaborative for a clinical and quality review process called Life Experience Assessment
Protocol (LEAP) project. The short-term focus is to use the LEAP as a part of the review process
to evaluate residential provider financial rate exception requests. Eventually we expect to expand
the number of Counties participating in the LEAP as will the purposes and utility of the
assessment process.
• And finally, we continue to emphasize Employment First opportunities to promote competitive
employment for people with an intellectual disability or diagnosed with autism.

Presentation – Mental Health Housing Initiatives – Rose Schultz

Rose noted that while Dan was the Deputy MH Administrator, the housing programs had
increased.

Highlights from the PowerPoint presentation are below:

MH Housing Initiatives – Types of Programs
• Bridge Rental Subsidy Program – a partnership with the Housing Authority of the County
of Dauphin using Medicaid Reinvestment Funds as the rental subsidy
• Pennsylvania 811 – Federal HUD Program – A project-based rental assistance
demonstration program involving low income housing opportunities with housing
properties also involved with low income tax credits
• Sunflower Fields – A capital investment which yielded five homes in a 35-home residential
development with a subsidized rent for persons with a serious mental illness

Target Population
• Adults with a primary serious mental illness diagnosis registered with the Dauphin County
MH system
• Interest and ability to live successfully in independent housing. Services are not a
requirement of these programs
• Completion of a prepared renter’s program (PREP)
• Completed application and approval of oversight – local lead agency, HACD, and Property
Management

Collaborators
• Adults with a primary serious mental illness diagnosis and their support system
• Mental health provider network
• Housing Authority of the County of Dauphin
• Local lead agency (Capital Area Coalition on Homelessness)
• Housing developers, property managers and landlords in Dauphin County
• Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency (PHFA)
Department of Human Services and Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services

Highlights and Outcomes – Bridge Rental Subsidy
- Qualified Section 8 Program applicants - low income
- Ability to work with MH providers and support network on credit and criminal background issues
- Cooperation with a MH case management entity (CMU, Keystone ICM or NHS ACT Team)
- Ability to locate housing to meet individual/family needs and be accepted by landlord or property manager
- Maintain housing based upon annual inspection and periodic review by MH provider network and HACD

Bridge Rental Subsidy – 2014-2017
- Number of applications – 34
- Number currently housed – 18
- Number approved and looking for housing – 2
- Number applied on waiting list – 14
- Number with one-year tenure in bridge as of December 31, 2017 – 12
- Among the 12, all are doing very well or well in the program and HACD has a commitment to provide a permanent Section 8 voucher to each successful tenant in 2-3 years

Highlights and Outcomes – Pennsylvania 811
- Dauphin County was one of six initial county implementers of the new 811 program model
- State established target populations to move persons from institutional care, risk of institutional care and local congregate care
- Other target populations are vying for 811 housing and other counties can use housing opportunities in Dauphin County
- Coordination of care in independent housing requires collaboration and monitoring
- Application process is computerized and priorities for housing are ranked in the approval process

- Number of project-based vouchers in Dauphin County – 21
- Number of Dauphin County applicants with MH system involvement – 14
- Number of Dauphin County applicants with MH involvement approved for 811 – 14

Highlights and Outcomes – Sunflower Fields
- Capital investment using Medicaid reinvestment funds
- Substantial documentation requirements/paperwork with DHS and developer
- PHFA approval included an Innovation Award for having community gardens in the project design
- Cooperation with a MH case management entity (CMU, Keystone ICM or NHS Act Team) in application process
- Qualified low income households eligible for renal subsidy
• Ability to work with MH providers and support network on credit and criminal background issues
• Approval by Property Management

Sunflower Fields – 2014-2017
• Number of applicants – 24
• Number approved for housing – 5
• Types of homes – 2 one-bedroom homes; 2 two-bedroom homes and 1 three-bedroom home—2 houses are wheelchair accessible
• All homes have a garage, outside storage, furnished appliances including washer and dryer, central air/heating and window blinds
• Each family has an opportunity to have a garden and learn gardening while residing at Sunflower Fields

Tackling 3 significant housing projects at the same time has required a tremendous amount of work among case management entities and network providers. Judy Vercher stated she thought this was an amazing project. Rose Schultz noted that after 15 years, a resident of Sunflower Fields will have the option to rent to own.

Intellectual Disabilities Committee – The minutes from the October 3 and November 7, 2017, meetings were distributed. There are major changes in implementation of new waiver amendments and there are still many questions. There are also transportation needs not being met. It is challenging for consumers to get out into the community when there isn’t sufficient or dependable transportation. There is also a concern of having sufficient staff to assist those who need help getting places.

Nominating Committee – Four new board members are still needed. It was noted that they do have to be a Dauphin County resident.

Executive Committee – This committee did meet and the motion was made and seconded for Liz Pliszka to become the President, and Gregg Davis to become the Vice President.

MH Committee – The minutes from October 16, 2017, were distributed. The data gathered quarterly by CABHC from the Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) program was reviewed. Dauphin County has the largest ACT team out of all 5 counties.

PCIT (Parent/Child Interactive Therapy) Data Review – 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. This program is really successful and most children have made good progress.
**Fiscal Report**
Paul Geffert distributed the Budget vs. Expenses report by cost center. Paul stated he has received the 17-18 allocation and it was the same amount as last year.

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

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