Dauphin County Human Services Block Grant Planning and Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

February 17, 2017

In attendance: Randie Yeager, Kacey Crown, Daniel Eisenhauer, Paul Boyer, Fred Lighty, Judy Vercher, Jennifer Wintermyer, Cheryl Dondero, Rocco Cambria, Currin Haines-Yoder, Sam Priego, April Rudick.

The meeting was opened by Randie Yeager. Discussion was made on priorities for next year’s block grant consideration which will be submitted in June 2017. We discussed the opioid epidemic, and another priority is employment. Members were asked to submit initiatives by beginning of March.

The State budget was reviewed. Early reports suggest the budge may be flat and that the numbers might be staying the same. We are cautious but optimistic. Cheryl and Dan heard flat funding subject to everything.

Randie will discuss at the March Director’s meeting about potentially shifting dollars to HAP. We might be able to fill in the gap with MHID, but not definite yet. Dan said that CCU will be out of money by the end of April.

HSDF update provided by Randie Yeager:

- Central PA Food Bank numbers at the NDHSC are high. Current FY we have assisted 942 individuals.
- Meals on Wheels, currently have one client.
- YWCA Diversity Forum continue to grow. They had over 100 in attendance yesterday.
- All other contracted providers are on pace.

Children and Youth update provided by Currin Haines-Yoder:

- Spending increased for MST, housing and MATP, but we factored that into the NBB to cover.
- Yesterday, there were vacancies in the Check and Connect Program. Our Education Coordinator will be shifting her focus to The Every Child Succeeds Act and new school policies and she will also work with the MDJ’s and bring up at the AOPC meeting.
- We are monitoring Housing resources closely. This includes Brethren (which is stable), supplemental housing/rental assistance has increased.
- We had 5 employees move on in our Family Development Credentialing Section.
- PRIDE numbers have increased and we are getting more foster parents and guardians.
- SAMARA is on track.
- FGC has increased.
- We now have 12 vacancies, 3 Supervisors and one Program Specialist.
D&A update provided by Cheryl Dondero:

- We are following the State merger closely.
- First town hall meeting is in Middle Paxton on April 11 at 6:00 p.m. and April 18 at 6 p.m. in Northern Dauphin.
- NDHS is close to outpatient provider.
- Now have 6 or more methadone providers
- Reinvestment in planning with Managed Care, hopefully to additional recovery support in community.
- We currently have 3 vacancy postings.
- We are in the hospitals and it is going very well, increases in assessments.
- Soon to have Naloxone moving to community solution, hopeful to have community pharmacy in 4 quadrants of county, to get Naloxone to our providers.
- Vivotrol for jail has expanded to any court agencies.
- Waiting on Gaudenzia detox to open in late April.
- Gaudenzia is closing adolescence at Chambers Hill. They only had 4 beds filled, out of 28. We now only have Pyramid with 4 locations in PA that do adolescent care.
- We are working on next year’s Prevention contracts.
- May 16-18 is the Addictions Conference.
- Centers of Excellence are both up and running (PA Counseling and Hamilton Health)
- We are truly a 24-7 office with mobile case managers on call.

MH/ID update provided by Dan Eisenhauer:

- Completed training for CAPSTONE program, through PPI and YWCA, and we believe in March that we can start referrals
- As for Housing, we have Sunflower Fields. We are running into credit check and criminal check issues, then we have to do appeals and remediate. It is a process. We have 12 referrals for 5 units.
- For our Residential services, we are working on length of stay at CRC, supposed to be 2 years. There are some with 3-13 years stay.
- For I.D., there were new regulations proposed in December. We were going through comments then the waiver renewal came out. There are many changes proposed., most in community participation. For example, adult day care, can’t be isolated programs anymore. Proposed timeline is too aggressive. Only change that is forced is “Must have informed choice.” July 1 is timeline and we are working on how to do this.
- Employment First, choices for employment to customize and build from interest and skills.
- HAP, is used for rental assistance and shelter, most referrals have no disabilities, just working poor. (Randie indicated we may have a ND option for shelter based on a community member’s intent.)

No Public Comment was made. Meeting adjourned at 11:00 am.
**Our next meeting on May 19 will be held at Gaudenzia at 2930 Derry Street.**