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

November 17, 2017

In attendance: Scott Burford, Randie Yeager, Kacey Crown, Shirley Keith-Knox, Paul Boyer, Fred Lighty, Jennifer Wintermyer, Cheryl Dondero, Sam Priego, April Rudick, Paula Ruane, Rocco Cambria, Brian Ham, Diane Reed, Bob Burns, Annmarie Kaiser, Steve Schwartz, Kacey Crown.

The meeting was opened by Scott Burford. Scott gave a brief history of the Human Services Block Grant and the purpose of the Advisory Committee.

He announced the retirement of Shirley Keith-Knox and the resignation of Cheryl Dondero. Mrs. Dondero will begin a new chapter at the National Alliance for Model State Drug Laws.

Mr. Burford announced that the State budget was passed. We submitted our HSBG plan for 2017-2018 to the State and the approved plan is posted on the County website. The block grant structure changed for 2017-18, CYS no longer has designated funds in the block grant, but representation on the Advisory Committee will continue.

A general announcement was made to all any committee members who want to serve another term, please email Kacey Crown by December 1, 2017. Mr. Burford, will personally contact those not in attendance.

**HSDF update provided by Randie Yeager:**

Ms. Yeager, shared the circumstances surrounding a call that she received. The call was from a mother who had an open case with a couple County Departments and numerous caseworkers. She has 10 kids and one grandchild. She was given 14 appointments to attend every week and find a job and housing. With no transportation, she has to attend Strengthening Families program once a week, attend a Family Reunification program at Pressley Ridge two to three times a week, an anger management class at Sound Community Solution, drug testing at Children and Youth every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, and counseling at CMU with TW Ponessa, psychological evaluation at Hempfield Behavioral Health, and drug and alcohol course three times a week at NASR, more drug testing three times a week, and more random drug testing with Probation. She lost all the kids before, got them back, etc. She was only asking for a way to get to all the appointments.

This is a perfect example of how integration will help us do our job more effectively.

Meals on Wheels-no one receiving meals

Northern Dauphin Food Pantry has worked on a lot of cooperative food agreements and now has 920 unduplicated clients as of Oct. 31, 2017. They spent a 1/3 of their monies so far and will spend most by end of year.
An update on the Data Integration Project - Brian Hamm

He explained that the County is compiling information, statistics and building an executive dashboard across MHID/D&A. The County will have self-service reporting; confidential information will be sanitized and the reports will be very user friendly.

The County will be implementing a data warehouse distribution, strictly data and analysis, not a replacement for existing operating systems. At some future point in time, meetings with the providers will occur. See attached documents.

D&A update provided by Cheryl Dondero:

Mrs. Dondero announced that the retirement of John Sponeybarger has been reconsidered. John will now stay on with the County through the transition of a new Agency Director.

The Agency is currently interviewing for Prevention Specialist in ND, soon interviewing for SCA Program Representative.

PSU Harrisburg has rolled out an opioid resource for Dauphin County residents.

PCCD monies for central entity for Naloxone for First Responders, South Central EMS.

Mrs. Dondero will continue to be active at the County level, as she will continue to participate on a CCAP panel along with Commissioner Hartwick regarding medical marijuana.

It was reported that the Agency received monies through CURES for opioid epidemic. $228,000 for general treatment, $53,800 for treatment and recovery and $53,000 for general opioid. Our plan is to retroactive accounting for opioid disorder treatment for $75,000 for medicated assisted treatment and have several sports open per week, caps on methadone provider, 10 caps, we can fund the copay and deductible per DDAP policy (pay difference between insurance.) and use Certified Recovery Specialists services in a different way.

MH/ID update provided by Shirley Keith-Knox:

Overall MH/ID/HAP budget is on solid footing. We were able to fund our services last FY, and we are on pace to have no budget issues this FY. We do not anticipate having any funds to transfer to other partners in the block grant and aren't expecting to receive any transfers. This also means our providers have been flat funded for 5 consecutive years, which negatively impacts providers ability to hire and retain qualified workforce when provider program revenue is flat for so long.

Regarding Homeless Assistance Program, we continue to experience high referral rates for people who are facing eviction or homeless seeking shelter and transitional housing. Also, affordable rental units are becoming scarce especially in the city.
In Crisis we are down 2 staff but have candidates to fill those positions, pending Commissioners approval, they would start by end of November. We also recently had 2 new positions approved at Crisis to keep up with increasing demand, and to accommodate a request to provide more Crisis services at Hershey Medical Center. They had been using their own social workers for some MH assessments, but it is our responsibility to meet that need.

In MH was are focused on Stepping Up initiative, gathering and analyzing data and receiving technical assistance from the Council of State Governments to reduce the number of people with mental illness in prison. We expect final recommendations from CSG by March or April of 2018. We are also focused on improving outcomes for MH residential services, employment, and continued expansion of our First Episode of Psychosis Grant, in partnership with PPI, CMU, and the YWCA.

Mrs. Knox announced that her replacement will be Bobbi Segin, an internal candidate who has been with the County for several years.

There will be a major change in I.D. federal funding, state match waivers as of July 1, 2018. Enroll folks into consolidated waiver and service support waiver.

We have had an employment increase for ID from 11% to 21%.

Project Search is in its third year and doing great.

Meeting Adjourned.