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

September 14, 2018


The meeting was opened by Scott Burford. The Commissioners approved the FY’18-'19 plan. It is posted on our website. Randie, April, and others are working on the funding formula. April has been diligently working on effectiveness measures for each block grant funded program and this date will be incorporated into the funding formula.

**HSDF update provided by Randie Yeager:**

With $109,000, we served 3599 people. CONTACT Helpline assisted 1337 individuals, Northern Dauphin Food Panty served 1203 individuals and 400 families. The Food Bank is using a survey with questions such as “is your appetite satisfied with the food you have been allotted?” This will help us survey clients and measure effectiveness. The received 103 questionnaires back from consumers.

Northern Dauphin Transportation is receiving a gaming grant for transportation for 18-59-year old’s who are not authorized to receive other transportation services. The van was purchased last week. Tri County Community Action is our provider. We will have a soft launch in probably 4-6 weeks. HSDF funds will be used for the first year for coordination efforts.

**D&A update provided by Sherry Clouser:**

During Fiscal Year 2017/2018, the Department served the following:

- 1,934 individuals with screening, assessment, case management, and treatment services
- 52 individuals with intensive case management services (with 126 attending life skills classes and 20 holistic support clients)
- 34 individuals with adult recovery coaching services (with 198 in Recovery 101 classes and 223 in life skills classes)
- 206 individuals with adolescent recovery services in the youth groups
- 26 individuals with emergency shelter averaging 24 days
- 26 individuals with hotline/crisis services
- 1,997 individuals with outreach services (with 1,500 being 55 & under and 497 over 55)
- 66,902 attended prevention events
- 9,518 (unduplicated) attended prevention programs
- We are again starting the Pregnant Women with Children program.
• We have been meeting with Systems of Care and Certified Recovery Specialists form Gaudenzia to get them id tags in the hospitals
• We had two Police Departments and one Emergency Management System ask for Warm Hand Off Education.
• Recovery Day is Sept. 29 at the Harrisburg East Mall from 11-3.
• There will not be CRS training for this year. We currently have 70 now. We are going with the Certified Family Recovery Specialist training.
• We are also working on a combined CYS & D&A referral for Certified Recovery Specialists. Tynesha will coordinate these referrals.
• Met with Northern Dauphin Health Initiative and setting up training for doctors on counseling, aftercare and medicine.

**MH/ID update provided by Dave DeSanto:**

We are entering our 7th consecutive FY of flat funding for the MH/ID and HAP programs following a 10% reduction in funding in FY 12-13. This is impacting our ability to keep pace with competitive wages and our capacity to meet the demand for services. Also, we are seeing workforce shortages in direct care positions in the ID program and in master’s level clinician advanced degree positions in the MH field.

**MH**

• We are continuing to expand our efforts to increase referrals for our First Episode Psychosis Grant program, a partnership between Dauphin County MH, CMU, PPI, and the YWCA Supported Employment Program. We are coordinating with surrounding counties to offer FEP grant services to residents in Cumberland and York Counties.
• We continue to focus on increasing affordable housing options. We are seeing success with our Bridge Rental Subsidy program and our long-standing Shelter + Care program, both in collaboration with the Housing Authority of the County of Dauphin.
• We continue to work on efforts around the recommendations in the Stepping Up report to reduce the number of people with serious mental illness in Dauphin County prison.

**ID**

• The ID Department is now fully staffed.
• We recently started our 3rd Project Search cohort with Dauphin County serving as the site for intern rotations. We continue to see positive outcome for Project Search participants gaining competitive employment.
• ID and CMU are working conjointly on developing risk management protocols to identify persons at high risk for certain medical conditions that are prevalent in the ID consumer population, particularly those served in residential programs. This includes better tracking of monitoring, action steps and follow up action’s providers need to take for medical care.

Crisis
• Crisis still has two 2nd shift vacancies. Crisis has made offers of employment for those two positions
• Crisis received a full license from OMHSAS during the last licensing on site visit.

HAP
• We have hired a new Grants Management Coordinator (Angela Susten) whose responsibilities include oversight of the HAP Program.
• HAP providers continue to see high demand for services and limited resources.
• We are in discussion with some HAP providers about aligning the priority for HAP services with HUD mandated Coordinated Entry processes for programs funded by the HUD continuum of care, meaning we are considering whether some HAP funded programs should change admission criteria to only serve people who are literally homeless or fleeing domestic violence. HAP funded Bridge Housing programs have significant waiting lists and shelters are generally operating at full capacity.

Early Intervention
• We have been moving forward with the Grant that Dauphin County received from the Pritzker Children’s Initiative Network in partnership with the National Association of Counties. The long-term goal is to improve kindergarten readiness by reducing suspensions and expulsions in childcare settings.
• Short-term, we are coordinating the efforts of early childhood professionals in the County through our Stakeholder Group; we are raising awareness of Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) and the importance of social-emotional development in infants and toddlers for childcare providers and families with young children; and we are making sure that the community is aware of Early Intervention as a support service.
• EI supports child development by working with children who have developmental delays and their families and childcare providers. It can also support childcare staff with training about a variety of special needs.
• The Grant activities completed to date are the ongoing Stakeholder Group meetings; the Community Profile that contains data specific to the needs in Dauphin County; a Listening Session for child care providers in the Harrisburg area to hear the successes and challenges of managing behavior and avoiding the suspension/expulsion of young children; and the PBIS and SE Behavior trainings planned for childcare staff and families with young children on September 15th and October 6th.

Meeting Adjourned.