

Program Committee Meeting

Meeting date: Monday, September 12, 2022

Meeting time: 5:02pm – 6:15 pm

Meeting location: 2 Oak Street, Norwalk

Recorder: Cari Williamson

Committee Members Present:

	Katie Chieda - excused	X	Lenora Minor
X	Amber Boldman, Committee Chair		Laura M. Wheeler – arrived 5:05
	Julie Landoll, First Vice Chair - excused	X	Silvia Hernandez
X	Erin Bohne		

Board Staff Present:

X	Kristen Cardone, Executive Director	X	Ashley Morrow, Community Engagement & Resource Manager
X	Cari Williamson, Office & Fiscal Manager	X	Devin Pollick, Prevention Coordinator

Unfinished business/updates:

- September Meeting
 - Monthly presentations: NAMI Northwest and Family Life Counseling
 - Ms. Cardone shared NAMI Northwest was scheduled to present in August and since that meeting was canceled, they will present this month.
 - This is a new fiscal year so there may be agencies presenting that presented recently.
 - Location: The Depot, Willard Ohio
 - Ms. Cardone shared the exact address as 542 S. Main St, Willard, Ohio.
 - Update from Onboarding Committee
 - Ms. Cardone shared the Onboarding Committee will be providing an update on their progress.
 - The minutes for the August and September meetings were sent to Board members on September 8, 2022
- Praxis Updates
 - Ms. Cardone shared she has a meeting scheduled on September 14, 2022 with Ohio Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) staff, head of Licensure and Certification department as well as the staff who oversees our area. The plan to review list of issues that have been shared with Board staff by Let's Get Real, Willard Police Department, Willard Fire, and an individual in recovery who goes into the facility each week to provide support group meetings.
 - There is a continued increase in calls to Willard Fire and Willard Police Department regarding Praxis. This is putting a strain on the community as they have paid cab fares for people as far as Cincinnati.
 - Let's Get Real has increased calls from Willard Police to help with transferring people, which has been requested for them to do by the Board. Additionally, Praxis is calling Let's Get Real for their transportation for clients who do not complete the program. Praxis will only transport clients who fully complete their program.

- Let's Get Real has clients explaining issues they have encountered with Praxis. Also, feedback has been acquired by an individual in recovery who provides support group meetings at Praxis.
 - Poor nutrition, former clients ask to bring back food for current clients because they are only being fed noodles.
 - Clients are using drugs while in program, some openly.
 - Sexual interactions between clients, again openly.
 - Building is in poor condition and not clean
 - High staff turnover.
 - Accept sex offenders, even with the close vicinity to day care center.
 - They offer clients "butterfly bucks" which can be earned by doing various jobs. The "butterfly bucks" are used for essentials that are not being provided. Clients are spending time trying to earn these bucks instead of engaging in treatment
 - Clients are giving each other medications
 - Environment has been described as "chaos".
- There has been an individual who filed a formal complaint with Willard Police Department and this grievance has been shared with OhioMHAS.
- Ms. Amber Boldman shared her experience with Praxis is they will send individuals to a recovery house on gabapentin or suboxone, knowing that these are not approved medications for recovery housing. The typical stay for individuals coming from Praxis is 2-48 hours, long enough to have Praxis state they successfully completed their program.
- Ms. Cardone shared she will continue talking with the State and keep everyone updated.
- Fair reimbursement
 - Ms. Cardone shared if you worked at the fair, please send Ms. Cari Williamson an email with the date(s) you worked so reimbursement for admission can be processed.

Discussion Items:

- FY22 4th Quarter Reports (Email attachment) & Agency updates
 - Age Exchange
 - Ms. Cardone shared she will be attending an event Wednesday, September 14, 2022 evening hosted by Services for the Aging to share resources. This event will be focused on the Seniors in our community.
 - Catholic Charities Adult Advocacy
 - Ms. Cardone shared there has been staff turnover but have not heard any issues related to disruptions in services because of this. Catholic Charities has experienced staff turnover recently with grant writing specialist leaving, the person who oversaw services for this region, and the head of Adult Advocacy Services in Huron County.
 - Miriam House
 - Ms. Cardone shared there are no major updates or issues. They have been getting a lot more residents with history of significant trauma. They consistently stay full.
 - Family and Children First Council (FCFC)
 - Ms. Cardone shared the report focuses on Prevention services which are now under the Board with Mr. Devin Pollick.
 - Huron County Juvenile Court (HCJC) Family Dependency Court
 - Ms. Cardone shared there was an increase in clients in fourth quarter. There are continued successes.

- Ms. Cardone shared the Judge is considering Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT), which provides help to people with severe mental health needs. This will be discussed at the next Stepping Up meeting.
 - Family Life Counseling (FLC)
 - Ms. Cardone shared Ms. Boldman, Ms. Minor and herself met with Dr. Steven Burggraf a couple of months ago to review the plan of correction submitted to the Board in response to the issues at the Women's House of Hope (WHOH). The cause of issues was identified to be staffing problems and poor communication, which will be addressed internally.
 - Ms. Boldman expressed continued concerns with WHOH. Women have transferred there from other houses because of the more easygoing atmosphere and lenient punishments.
 - Ms. Cardone shared there has been a recent update to the policies at the WHOH.
 - Ms. Cardone shared the Board staff has met with women at recovery house and plan to attend ongoing monthly meetings to get to know women and encourage open line of communication. She will be attending meeting at Men's House of Hope (MHOH) in early October and plan to attend monthly as well.
 - Ms. Cardone shared she became aware of other issue a few weeks ago. A family was referred to services at FLC by Child Protective Services (CPS). The family called multiple times to make appointment over the course of 2+ months with no return phone call to schedule appointment. Concerns include not only this family not receiving services, but how many other individuals who called in for services did not receive a call back and therefore and not getting the help that they need.
 - Ms. Cardone and Ms. Minor had a meeting with Dr. Burggraf. He submitted plan of correction addressing CPS clients specifically and will be emailing him this week to tell him this plan needs to be expanded to include all potential clients.
 - Ms. Cardone shared there has been an increase in Mobile Response Stabilization Services (MRSS) referrals.
 - Firelands Counseling & Recovery Services
 - Ms. Cardone shared they will be providing Question, Persuade, and Refer (QPR) trainings each month at request of Board.
 - Ms. Cardone shared they are spending between 8 and 9 thousand dollars per month going toward group home placements.
 - These placements are typically a long-term placement for individuals with mental health problems and need additional support such as nursing care or 24/7 staff. Huron County does not have a group home, there are numerous throughout the state though it can be challenging finding placement for individuals.
 - Ms. Cardone shared the report was late, but this is not a continuous issue.
 - Let's Get Real
 - Ms. Cardone shared they recently received their certification from OhioMHAS, certifying them for Peer Recovery Services, Peer Run Organization, and Referral and Information Services. This is the first step towards being able to bill insurance for services.
 - Once they can bill for services the Board will be able to save money.
 - Ms. Cardone shared there has been staff turnover, they are currently hiring.
 - Currently there are no male peer supporters. Mr. Greg Klima has been interviewing.

- Board members had no opposition and after discussion, determined they would like the Board's contribution to be \$5,500.00.
- Prevention
 - Ms. Cardone shared application was submitted many months ago for Drug Free Communities grant and the Huron County Prevention Coalition recently received notification that they were awarded the funding.
 - This grant requires three positions. Originally when Prevention was under Family and Children First Council (FCFC) Mr. Devin Pollick and Ms. Niki Cross would fill the two positions and Ms. Lenora Minor would oversee it. Since prevention has moved to MHAS Ms. Cardone will be overseeing the grant, Mr. Pollick would still fill one position, leaving an additional position to fill. The grant would cover the salary and fringe benefits for an additional position at 100%.
 - Ms. Cardone shared there have been multiple meeting with OMHAS regarding Prevention. OMHAS informed Board staff they are updating the prevention Ohio Revised Code to require Prevention Coalitions to become certified. Per the ORC, the Board cannot be certified or provide direct services, so if Mr. Pollick continues to be an employee of the Board, we would be out of compliance with the ORC.
 - Some options include being housed at a church, school, or agency. The issue with any of these options is the potential feeling of animosity amongst others in the particular field.
 - Another option, one that Board staff is in favor of, is having Mr. Pollick's position and the new position for the grant become contracted employees of Northpoint Educational Services Center. Nothing would change for Mr. Pollick except who pays him. Mr. Pollick and the new employee would continue to work in the MHAS office, they would just be employees of Northpoint.
 - Benefits and vacation time would be through Northpoint. The contract fee for Northpoint is 4% of their salaries, which can be paid from the grant.
 - OMHAS is willing to let the Board continue as is until a solution is found, though the Board should find a solution sooner rather than later.
 - Ms. Cardone shared she will speak with the Board's legal representation Mr. Randy Strickler, and school superintendents for guidance as to how this process works. There will potentially be two motions on the Board agenda.
 - Board members have no opposition.
- OhioMHAS Prevention grant (Motion)
 - Motion: Authorize Executive Director to enter into a SFY 2023 contract with Huron County Family and Children First Council (FCFC) in the amount of \$60,000 utilizing OhioMHAS American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Community Impact funding.
 - Ms. Cardone shared the Board had applied for and was recently awarded ARPA grant in the amount of \$60,000 through which the Board will partner with Huron County FCFC to implement the Strengthening Families program. This 14-week program involves intervention to help families strengthen parenting and communication skills. It will take place at CLI and is for Huron County residents. It will include a dinner with the other families involved, then parents and children break-away into separate groups to each get involved in their specific curriculum. Ms. Niki Cross from FCFC will work with Judge Cardwell and Children Protective Services on which families to have attend this program.
 - Board members had no opposition.
- Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF) grant (Potential Motion)

- Ms. Cardone shared FCFC was originally allocated these \$30,000 funds for 5 years with the intention of FCFC housing prevention. The funds have been utilized to cover part of Ms. Cross' salary.
 - Ms. Cardone, Mr. Pollick, and Ms. Cross met recently to discuss what this will look like going forward. Ms. Cross expressed she no longer has the capacity to help with this grant. FCFC is currently short staffed. The concern is FCFC depended on this grant to help fund Ms. Cross' salary and without it they are not sure where the funding will come from. FCFC provides a necessary and important service for the well-being of children and families. A solution would be for the Board to contract with FCFC for \$30,000 to continue providing the services, utilizing OhioMHAS FY23 allocations and/or Huron County levy funding.
- Board members had no opposition.
- Women's House of Hope Monthly report and updates (Attachment I)
 - Ms. Cardone shared this is an old report, it was for July. August's report due in 3 days. As of last week, there was one bed open at WHOH. Men's House of Hope had a couple open beds in July. Meeting monthly which will give a lot more input and when surveys are sent the residents will hopefully be more likely to respond since they will be familiar with the Board and Board staff.
- Ms. Cardone informed Program Board members to review the minutes for Finance Committee. There is a new budget which gives a much better understanding of what revenues are coming in and expenses are going out each month. Please provide feedback.

Attachment I

Women's House of Hope Monthly Report, July 2022

Due by the 15th of each month

- **Number of unique residents served:** 0
- **Resident relapses and how handled:** 1; (Occurred on 7/5/22 but was reported in last month's report); Clt was put on restriction, individual counselor was notified, additional support was provided.
- **Successful recovery housing graduates to independent living:** 0
- **Resident employment status:** 3
- **Have you made adjustments to the project, and if so, what adjustments have been made and why?** No
- **How are you linking residents with local community and treatment services as needed?**
 - For residents linked with treatment services, please provide the following information:
 - Number of residents engaged in services at Firelands: 1
 - Number of residents engaged in services at Oriana House: 1
 - Number of residents engaged in services at Family Life: 3
 - Number of residents engaged in services at other agencies: 0
- **How are you evaluating the success of your program?** Are you evaluating outcomes? Please describe your program outcomes. The Board has begun to distribute satisfaction surveys via email. Both the House Manager and Program Director attended a training for Outcomes Survey's with the Ohio Recovery Housing on 7/14/22.
- **Describe a typical day at the Women's House of Hope including scheduled activities and days/times for these activities. What prosocial activities are the women engaging in? How are they spending their days?** Staff ensures women are out of their rooms with beds made by 9am. House chores are from 9am to 10am. Morning Meditation is from 10am to 11am. There is a structured group meeting onsite from 2pm to 3pm. On Thursday's, there is a site meeting from 4pm to 5pm.
- **Please describe successes/challenges/trends:** The women are getting along well and have been organizing activities (meals, art projects, etc.) within the home.

House of Hope Statistics 5/25/22 to 6/15/22		
Total Inquiries	Number	Explanation
Huron County Inquiries	2	
Out of County Inquiries	2	1 Seneca Co.; 1 Ottawa Co.
Accepted by HOH	4	
Not Accepted by HOH and Why	0	
Did Not Qualify/Did Not Pursue and Why	0	
Accepted by HOH, Applicant Declined and Why	2	1 did not return calls for phone intake; 1 requested move in but then did not respond to outreach
Applicant Accepted, Not yet moved in	1	Candidate is scheduled to move in in August.
Participant Left HOH	0	
Current Participants and county breakdown	5	4 Huron Co.; 1 Lorain Co.
Participants engaged in recovery support meetings	5	

- Provide the following documentation to show the intake process is being followed appropriately for each applicant and to ensure intake process is taking no more than 48 hours from the time application is received:
 - *Please see the attached spreadsheet.*
- Submit list of email addresses for all residents currently residing in the home. Beginning in May, the Board will be sending a monthly survey to residents to gather their feedback regarding the house to help us assess any improvements that need to be made.
 - *Email addresses and ROI's have been provided to the Board.*

Men's House of Hope Monthly Report, July 2022

Due by the 15th of each month

- **Number of unique residents served:** 0
- **Resident relapses and how handled:** 1; Transported resident to Erie Co. Detox. He then followed up with a 30-day residential program. His plan is to return to the house upon his completion.
- **Successful recovery housing graduates to independent living:** 0
- **Resident employment status:** 3
- **Have you made adjustments to the project, and if so, what adjustments have been made and why?** No
- **How are you linking residents with local community and treatment services as needed?**
 - For residents linked with treatment services, please provide the following information:
 - Number of residents engaged in services at Firelands: 0
 - Number of residents engaged in services at Oriana House: 1
 - Number of residents engaged in services at Family Life: 8
 - Number of residents engaged in services at other agencies: 0
- **How are you evaluating the success of your program?** Are you evaluating outcomes? Please describe your program outcomes. We are working to develop an outcomes rating scale. We do hold a House Meeting weekly where feedback is obtained. The House Manager is preparing to be trained in the ORH Outcomes survey's.
- **Please describe successes/challenges/trends:** Successes: The opening of the addition has begun.

House of Hope Statistics		
Total Inquiries	Number	Explanation
Huron County Inquiries	0	
Out of County Inquiries	0	
Accepted by HOH	0	
Not Accepted by HOH and Why	0	
Did Not Qualify/Did Not Pursue and Why	0	
Accepted by HOH, Applicant Declined and Why	0	
Applicant Accepted, Not yet moved in	0	

Participant Left HOH	1	Detox/Residential
Current Participants and county breakdown	9	8 Huron Co.; 1 Franklin Co.
Participants engaged in recovery support meetings	9	

- Provide the following documentation to show the intake process is being followed appropriately for each applicant and to ensure intake process is taking no more than 48 hours from the time application is received:
 - *The House Manager is working on the creation and implementation of his spreadsheet.*

- Submit list of email addresses for all residents currently residing in the home. Beginning in May, the Board will be sending a monthly survey to residents to gather their feedback regarding the house to help us assess any improvements that need to be made.
 - *Email addresses have been provided to the Board.*

