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TOWN CLERK

Judy K. Gardner, LMFT Executive Director

MINUTES – STAFFORD FAMILY SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MARCH 2, 2017 -5:00 P.M.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Carol Davis, Pat Collin, Lt. Duncan, Cheryl Vail, Charlotte Hansen

YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES (non-voting): Kaitlyn Kirchhoffer

MEMBERS ABSENT: Madison Mitzkovitz, Damon Reynolds, Valerie Girard, Tony Frassinelli (ex-officio)

STAFF: Brenda Henderson, Judy Gardner

I. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m.

II. The revised Minutes from the December 1, 2016 meeting were reviewed and approved Ms. Gardner noted that Narcan will be available at SFS since we serve clients that are actively using opioids. The Board of Education's attorneys, Shipman and Goodwin, are reviewing the proposed plan for nurses at the middle and high schools to have Narcan available and if that is approved SFS staff will be able to train with the school nurses.

Lt. Duncan noted that there have not been any arrests for opioids at the middle or high school in the past 6 years but they would like to be prepared. Ms. Winicki was interested in data from the Opioid Overdose Prevention Conference but there is not information specific to Stafford. Ms. Gardner will forward her the presentation emails. Dr. Collin noted that the Narcan not just available for students but for anyone entering the school buildings. Tolland High School will be hosting a presentation for their students from parents that have had children affected by opioid abuse. (Carol Davis motion, Cheryl Vail second).

III. Judy Gardner reported that the Stafford Family Services budget should get approved as presented by the Board of Finance. There was an increase in training requested so Ms. Henderson can be trained to do the in-house billing. Once that training is complete than the new software can be purchased and the switch will be made. Ms. Henderson's job description will also need to be updated to reflect the increased responsibilities and training requirements.

IV. Brenda Henderson presented the quarterly report of clients served and income and expenditures. There have been 222 new cases this year so far and with 3 months left we expect to exceed last year's number of cases (255). There are also more family referrals this year already than all of

2015-16. In response to a request for information at the last meeting Ms. Gardner reported that currently the agency has 31 clients on Probation/Parole, with 27 of them being court-ordered for therapy. Financially the agency has collected \$154,871 (Medicaid, private insurance and co-pays) and Ms. Henderson expects that the agency will collect approximately \$180,000 for the fiscal year. The agency is also not spending all of its allocated Town funds which means more money will be available in the Town's General Fund. Pat Collin asked about the effect of the State's fiscal problems on our budget. Ms. Gardner reported that we will expect cuts in both the DMHAS and SDE funding of at least 10%.

V. There were no critical incident reports or client grievances to review.

VI. Lt. Duncan reported that the Loki "keep Stafford drug free" tee shirts have now been distributed to the elementary school and should be given to the high school students soon. He stated that there has been a recent increase in opioid-related situations with 1 death in February and 3 recent Narcan revivals. Currently the Police have not identified a major supplier and they have found that people are driving into Hartford, buying 10 bags, keeping 3 for themselves and selling 7. The East Windsor Police Chief has also reported an increase in opiate-related activities. Lt. Duncan reports that Stafford continues to be very aggressive in making dealer arrests.

Stafford Family Services and Stafford Social Services staff will be trained along with the school nurses at the middle and high schools in the administration of Narcan. We are looking into getting a supply through the Police Department as they can get 2 doses for \$25 and the pharmacies are charging 2 doses for \$75. They have a shelf-life of one year and Lt. Duncan stated that the agency would only need 2 doses at a time. There does not appear to be any heroin involvement with students at the high school and Kaitlyn Kirchhoffer noted that any students that had been involved in heavy drug use have been expelled or have dropped out. Ms. Gardner discussed some of the State initiatives to reduce opioid dependence, including requiring that prescriptions for opioids be written electronically so they can be better tracked. Ms. Henderson asked if Narcan can be used at home and then the person not go to the hospital and Lt. Duncan said yes but that the person should still go for an evaluation.

Ms. Davis expressed surprise at the age of some of the individuals being treated with Narcan as they range in age from 25 – 56 most recently. Ms. Vail noted that it starts with pain medication and Lt. Duncan pointed out that some older people have been using this type of medication their whole life and now can't get what they need. There was a discussion about how to reach the people that are actively using and Ms. Kirchhoffer said that she is concerned about not knowing how to help friends that are using drugs. She said you are taught in school to not use them but now usually if you find out someone is using drugs you avoid them. Ms. Davis noted that friends leaving make the drug users feel more withdrawn and then get involved with "bad" peers, not ones that will help them. She suggested that there should be a campaign similar to "Friends don't let friends drive drunk" but with drugs as the target.

VII. Dr. Collin reported that the the Board of Education Administrators developed a protocol to address students with truancy issues in anticipation of the change in August, 2017 when schools can no longer refer truancy cases to the Juvenile Court. The district's protocol is the following: in accordance with Board policy, a letter will be sent to parents; the student will be referred to the Student Assistance Team, which includes a truancy officer from EASTCONN; school staff will conduct a home visit; the truancy officer will conduct a home visit; depending on the circumstances and in consultation with administration, a referral will be made either to the Department of Children & Families (DCF) or to the Police. Another intervention, which may be proposed at any point in the process, is a referral to the district's school-based health center. The district will not consider referral to the regional Juvenile Review Board due to the latter's inability to enforce recommendations and lack of established procedures for dealing with truancy at this time. Law enforcement officials agreed continue to transport students to school to help with attendance when officers are available to assist. While truancy is considered a parental issue with elementary school-aged students, as students progress through the grades to high school, it becomes increasingly more difficult to implement effective interventions.

Ms. Gardner reported that DCF is coming for a licensing visit March 16th. This is just to review how the agency is doing as the license is not up for renewal for another year. DPH has sent paperwork to be completed to renew the license for SFS as a substance abuse treatment facility.

There were no responses to the town-wide email for student volunteers for the Advisory Board. Dr. Collin will follow-up with the high school and Ms. Kirchhoffer will also talk with students.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 5:59 p.m. (Carol Davis motion, Cheryl Vail second).

These Minutes Respectfully Submitted,


Judy Gardner