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Stafford Family Services

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TOWN CLERK

Judy K. Gardner, LMFT Executive Director

MINUTES – STAFFORD FAMILY SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MARCH 7, 2019 – 5:00 p.m.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Carol Davis, Charlotte Hansen, Lt. Duncan

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE: Mackenzie Murdock

MEMBERS ABSENT: Cheryl Vail, Jolene Piscatello, Mary Mitta – First Selectman (ex-officio)

STAFF: Judy Gardner, Brenda Henderson

I. The meeting was called to order at 5:06 p.m.

II. The Minutes of the September 6, 2018 meeting were reviewed and approved (Davis motion, Hansen second).

III. Ms. Henderson submitted the third quarter update on the number of clients seen since July 1, 2018 and revenue. We have opened up 176 new cases and have received \$151,902 in insurance revenue and co-pays to date. We are on target to receive \$230,000 in annual insurance revenue. SFS also received \$76,802 in funding from DMHAS and \$23,496 from SDE for clinical services this year. Ms. Gardner noted that this funding comes close to SFS breaking even with the funding budgeted by the Town and Lt. Duncan stated that this is more than breaking even because if SFS didn't provide therapy services to Town residents there would be an increase in the number of police and ambulance calls. He pointed out that there would be indirect costs to the Town. Ms. Hansen asked if the new Governor's budget would affect our funding and Ms. Gardner stated that she is not sure. We have a three year contract with DMHAS but in the past we have still been cut, and the funding for SDE is already slated for a cut but it is not clear how that would affect SFS funding.

IV. There were no critical reports or client grievances to review.

V. An article on SCADA was distributed to Board members. Lt. Duncan reviewed the Rides to Rehab program and reported that since no one has utilized the program yet the \$200 that has been used for prepaid cards will stay at SFS but the rest of the funding is going to Johnson Memorial to see if they can use it as the funds need to be spent by the end of the year. He noted that one floor of the hospital has been closed due to lack of patients but there are plans to re-open the walk-in clinic in the summer and that they will have expanded services. Ms. Hansen noted that there were things the walk-in clinic couldn't do, like stitches.

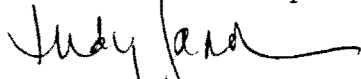
Lt. Duncan reported that there were 50 people in attendance at the last Narcan giveaway and they gave away 30 sets. There was a recent death in town due to opioids and they are going to bring the Courage to Speak parent back to meet with the middle school students. 400 new Loki tee shirts have also been printed for the middle school. He also expressed concern as last year there were no drunk driving arrests in town and to date there have been 7 in 2019.

Ms. Gardner handed out an article on vaping and the increase in use of e-cigarettes by teens. Ms. Murdock noted that vaping is up in the high school and that posters hung in the bathroom saying "use the bathroom for the bathroom" were torn down by students. One of the boys' bathrooms has been closed. The policy at the school is that there is in-school suspension for the first offense. Ms. Davis noted that children think they are invincible which is why they drive to fast and don't pay attention to the health risks of drugs or alcohol. Ms. Henderson suggested having a billboard with Loki sending a message about the dangers of vaping and have a contest among students for a logo. Ms. Davis noted that students need activities and education and Ms. Hansen said that they have had activities at the community farm regarding nutrition.

There was a discussion about the effect of marijuana being legalized in Massachusetts and what will happen in Connecticut. Ms. Henderson commented that legalizing it in Connecticut would bring money into the state. Ms. Hansen reports that for the towns in Massachusetts that have a dispensary the economies in the towns are improving. Ms. Davis stated that there will be a higher cost down the road and Lt. Duncan stated that there are no studies yet on the long-term effects on children with an increase in legal recreational marijuana use.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 5:52 p.m.

These Minutes Respectfully Submitted,


Judy Gardner