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Stafford Family Services

21 Hyde Park Road · Stafford Springs, Connecticut 06076

Tel: (860) 684-4239 • Fax: (860) 684-0511

E-Mail: family.services@staffordct.org

TOWN CLERK

Judy K. Gardner, LMFT Executive Director

MINUTES – STAFFORD FAMILY SERVICES
ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
JUNE 6, 2019 – 5:00 p.m.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Carol Davis, Judith Mordasky, Cheryl Vail, Meredith Monti, Jolene Piscetello

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE: Mackenzie Murdock

MEMBERS ABSENT: Charlotte Hansen, Lt. Duncan, Mary Mitta – First Selectman (ex-officio)

STAFF: Judy Gardner, Brenda Henderson

I. The meeting was called to order at 5:05 p.m. The two new Board members introduced themselves.

II. The Minutes of the March 7, 2019 meeting were reviewed and approved with revisions (p.2 end of first paragraph) (Davis motion, Monti second).

III. Ms. Henderson presented the most recent numbers regarding clients served and revenue. She noted that co-pays are lower than in previous years as many clients do not have the resources. Ms. Gardner commented that there has been an increase in the number of clients with Medicare and we cannot bill insurance for them so that has contributed to some of the decline in revenue. There have been 242 new cases open to date which is higher than last year. Ms. Piscetello asked if we maintain a waiting list and Ms. Henderson responded that if we cannot meet availability for the clients they are referred to CHR or Hockanum Valley. Ms. Piscetello stated that school-aged students can be referred to the school-based health clinics operated by CHC. Ms. Mordasky asked about hiring an additional clinician and Ms. Gardner noted that Town and State funds are not available for that but there are currently 5 masters' level interns and while one will leave in August 2 more are starting in September and we can bill Medicaid for the interns but do not have to pay them. Ms. Henderson noted that we will not spend all the Town money this year and both that money and all insurance payments and co-pays return to the General Fund for the Town.

Ms. Gardner reported that the Department of Public Health came for their surprise inspection for our Substance Abuse Treatment Facility license on May 31, 2019 and our license has been renewed for 4 years. The license for the Clinic for Adults (DPH) and Children (DCF) are due for renewal this year as well. DCF is coming in October and DPH will be back without a planned date.

IV. There were no critical incidents or client grievances to review for the quarter.

V. Lt. Duncan sent an email regarding the Drug Story Theater program that was offered at the middle and high schools with very positive feedback and Ms. Gardner read an email from a student sent to Lt. Duncan supporting the program and how helpful it was to him. Ms. Murdock noted that the presentation was age appropriate and Ms. Piscetello reported that she had received feedback that while the presentation was sad it was impactful on the students. Ms. Monti asked how the program was funded and Ms. Gardner and Ms. Piscetello responded that likely Lt. Duncan had used some grant funding.

Ms. Gardner reported that a Town resident had called with a concern regarding a dispensary being proposed for the Town and that the issue was with the Planning and Zoning Commission. Ms. Mordasky noted that they would have responsibility for making this type of decision and Board members expressed reservations regarding this type of business in the Town.

VI. Ms. Gardner distributed the annual update for the Quality Assurance Plan. There is a negative report regarding the target of reducing substance use among clients and noted the recent deaths in Town. None of the people who died were active clients at SFS at the time of their death but some were former clients and some have family members that receive services at SFS. Ms. Henderson reported on recent news blasts from DPH regarding overdoses and deaths in Hartford over the weekend and more overdoses today in New Haven. She explained that the deaths were all fentanyl related and that it was found mixed with cocaine or marijuana, not heroin. Ms. Piscetello noted that the schools try to educate the students that the current drugs are not the "grown in your backyard" type and can contain dangerous additives. Ms. Vail commented that even in states where marijuana is legal the only safe thing is to buy from a licensed dispensary. Ms. Gardner reported that the General Assembly passed a law raising to 21 the age someone can buy tobacco and e-cigarettes. Ms. Murdock noted that vaping is still a major issue in the high school despite bathrooms being closed. Ms. Mordasky asked about whether there are monitors that can be used to detect vape smoke. Ms. Gardner stated that we have had two recent referrals of clients using hallucinogens and that they may be the next major concern. The Quality Assurance Plan for 2019-20 was distributed to the Board.

Ms. Vail noted the commitment and dedication of Lt. Duncan in making sure there are prevention and intervention programs in place in Town to reduce substance abuse.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 5:48 p.m. (Vail motion, Davis second).

These Minutes Respectfully Submitted,


Judy Gardner



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Judy K. Gardner, LMFT Executive Director

MINUTES – STAFFORD FAMILY SERVICES – revised 6/7/19
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 that last year there were 22 drunk driving arrests which was a decrease from prior years. 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 too 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