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Judy K. Gardner, LMFT Executive Director

MINUTES – STAFFORD FAMILY SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD MEETING DECEMBER 5, 2019 – 5:00 P.M.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Meredith Monti, Jolene Piscetello, Lt. Duncan

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE: Mackenzie Murdock

MEMBERS ABSENT: Carol Davis, Cheryl Vail, Charlotte Hansen, Judith Mordasky, Mary Mitta – First Selectman

STAFF: Judy Gardner, Brenda Henderson

I. The meeting was called to order at 5:05 p.m. Introductions were made.

II. The Minutes of the June 6, 2019 meeting were reviewed and approved (Monti motion, Piscetello second).

III. Ms. Henderson presented the final figures for the 2018-19 program year. \$255,000 was returned to the Town's General Fund from insurance payments. There was an increase in money generated by Medicaid. 266 new cases were opened during the year which was an increase from 2017-18. Ms. Gardner reviewed the current program year. There are approximately 190 appointments scheduled each week at SFS and of those two thirds are clients that have been receiving services for more than 6 months. We have opened 88 new cases since July 1 which is less than last year but of those cases 67 are still in care. Insurance revenues are about the same as last year and we have 2 additional interns currently. A new outpatient clinic opened in town, the Center for Behavioral Wellness, and they are supposed to have a prescriber for Suboxone, medication assisted treatment for people trying to stop using opioids.

Lt. Duncan asked who is doing the billing for the agency and Ms. Henderson reports that she is 2/3s through entering current clients into the new system to create the data base and will still need to learn how to do the billing so the transition to our own internal system will take another few months.

Ms. Gardner reported that we will be requesting an increase in the funding line item for the APRN to expand her hours to two days/month. Ms. Piscetello noted that the cost to the Town should be covered by the increased billing and adding in billing private insurance companies for medication management.

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

V. Lt. Duncan reported that there has been additional focus on domestic violence after Stafford was in the top 4 towns in the State for domestic violence incidents by the percentage of the population. Ms. Monti asked how to reduce domestic violence and Lt. Duncan reported about a new billboard about the teen dating app td411 that provides resources and information about healthy relationships. Ms. Piscetello reported that there are many on-going activities at the schools regarding what is a good friendship and that in addition to Shine Purple activities during Domestic Violence awareness month they have been working with Annalise of The Network with the developmental guidance curricula with the school social workers. Ms. Murdock noted that the girls soccer team collected donations for the domestic violence shelter and that relationships are addressed in the health curriculum. Ms. Piscetello stated that the high school is interested in pursuing the 4 What's Next program run by the Jordan Porco Foundation that helps build resilience in students as they transition into young adulthood and Ms. Gardner has approved using funds from the Youth Services Bureau grant to pay for the program for the high school. Lt. Duncan confirmed that they will print posters of the td411 billboard for the middle and high schools and he has developed a web page for the Town website with links to domestic violence resources.


There were 3 deaths in the past 3 weeks that are likely a result of opioid overdoses. Lt. Duncan reports that it appears that the "message" has reached people in their teens and 20s but residents over 30 are at higher risk. There is a new Christmas themed billboard regarding not using drugs and he will distribute Loki tee shirts to Staffordville and West Stafford schools.

VI. Ms. Gardner reported that we completed our DCF licensing visit and were awarded a two year license renewal. We received an additional \$6,000 in Youth Services Bureau grant funds (bringing the total to \$30,000) from DCF (the funding source changed this year from SDE) and the DMHAS grant for \$76,000 was awarded also.

VII. Ms. Monti noted that there does not appear to be much vandalism in the town and Ms. Piscetello stated that there has been a lot done with artwork around town that people seem to appreciate. Lt. Duncan reports that there are also more cameras being installed on Main Street and this helps reduce these types of crimes.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m.
(Piscetello motion, Monti second).

These Minutes Respectfully Submitted,


Judy Gardner