

**Notes from the Board of Directors Meeting of August 3rd, 2016**

**at Twin County Recovery Services**

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by President Beth Schuster at 2:36p.m.

Roll Call

The following members were present at Roll Call: Robin Andrews, Nancy Benz, Jim Campion, Michael Cole, Kary Jablonka, Art Koweek, Theresa Lux, Tam Mustapha, Art Proper, Jeff Rovitz, Beth Schuster, Ken Stall, Scott Thomas, John Thompson, Linda Tripp, and Nancy Watrous.

The following members were absent at Roll Call: Lisa Evans, Chelly Hegan, PJ Keeler, Jack Mabb, Kevin McDonald, Leitha Pierro, and Tina Sharpe.

Staff members Claire Parde, Lisa Thomas, Lynda Scheer, and Aleshia Boyle were also present.

Monthly Information Item

1. Presentation from Lynda Scheer on the Prescription Access and Referral Program as well as the Financial Assistance Funds

At this time Claire introduced Lynda Scheer, Program Coordinator for the Prescription Access and Referral Program and the Financial Assistance Funds, who presented to the Board. Details of her presentation are included as an Addendum to these minutes.

*[Sarah Sterling entered the meeting at 2:42 p.m.]*

*[Tine Sharpe entered the meeting at 2:43 p.m.]*

*[Chelly Hegan entered the meeting at 2:56p.m.]*

Following Lynda’s presentation, Claire introduced Lisa Thomas. Lisa has recently been promoted to Director of Consumer Assistance Programs which oversees the Navigator Program, Prescription Access and Referral Program, NYConnects Program, and Financial Assistance Funds. Claire presented members with an updated Organizational Chart which reflected the recent changes in staffing.

*[Following the presentation of the Organizational Chart, Lisa Thomas and Lynda Scheer exited the meeting.]*

Approval of Board Meeting Minutes

**Be it RESOLVED, the Board of Directors accepts the minutes/action of the Board of Directors meeting of June 1, 2016.**

**Motion made by Chelly Hegan, seconded by Linda Tripp and unanimously approved.**

Approval of the Committee Meeting Minutes

**Be it RESOLVED, the Board of Directors moves to accept the minutes of the Executive Committee meeting of 6-22-2016; the Corporate Compliance Committee meeting of 6-1-2016; the Budget and Finance Committee meeting of 7-19-2016; the Governance Committee meeting of 7-6-2016; and the Strategic Planning Committee meetings of 6-30-2016 and 8-1-2016.**

**Motion made by Robin Andrews, seconded by Art Proper and unanimously approved.**

Committee Reports

1. Approval of Executive Director Compensation Policy

**Be it RESOLVED, the Board of Directors moves to approve the new Executive Director Compensation Policy.**

**Motion made by Jeff Rovitz, seconded by Kary Jablonka and unanimously approved.**

Executive Director’s Report

Members were provided with the written report (see attached).

Claire pointed out that she has been attending the Regional Planning Consortium meetings where her participation will be ongoing. The Regional Planning Consortium is a forum for members to discuss the issues related to the transition of behavioral health services into Medicaid Managed Care as well as other topics including DSRIP.

Claire also shared that she attended a dinner hosted by the New York State Health Foundation where she met the Foundation’s President and CEO, David Sandman, as well as Andrea Reynolds, President and CEO of the Dyson Foundation (a current funder). Following the dinner, Claire was asked and agreed to participate on the NYSHealth Foundation’s Community Advisory Board.

1. Overview of Consortium’s Programs and Services

At this time, Claire gave a PowerPoint Presentation on the Consortium’s Programs and Services (see attached slides).

Network Member Spotlight

1. Agency Overview and Tour of Twin County Recovery Services

Beth Schuster, Executive Director of Twin County Recovery Services, gave a brief overview of the agency. Twin County Recovery Service’s mission is to help alleviate the devastating effects of chemical dependency in the communities of Columbia and Greene Counties. Beth stated that there is truly an epidemic, and people are in hyper-vigilant mode on how to tackle the problem. She shared that alcohol abuse is the number one addiction in Columbia and Greene Counties, but opiate addictions are quickly on the rise.

TCRS provides outpatient clinic services such as alcohol and drug assessments and treatment, group and individual counseling, and information and referral services. A fairly new women’s group featuring young mothers with small children exists to allow mothers in recovery to bring their small children with them.

The Red Door located on Columbia Street in Hudson is TCRS’s residential facility for men, while the Riverside Recovery Residence in Catskill is a residential facility for women.

When asked, Beth stated that they help people age twelve and up and TCRS’s monthly census is about 145 people.

Meeting Review

1. What worked? What can be improved?

Members stated that they loved the different meeting location, where Beth stated that she is willing to share this space as needed. Members are asked to contact Beth for availability.

It was also agreed that the presentations from the Consortium’s different programs is appreciated because it allows members to meet the staff and gain insight into the complexities of their work.

Adjournment

**Motion made by Kary Jablonka, seconded by Scott Thomas and unanimously approved.**

The meeting adjourned at 3:54 p.m. and members were given the opportunity to freely tour the facility.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Linda Tripp, Board Secretary**

ADDENDUM

Presentation from Lynda Scheer on the Prescription Access and Referral Program:

After introductions, Lynda stated that the Prescription Access and Referral Program addresses the issues pertaining to prescription drug costs. This program assists clients in applying for patient assistance programs that allows qualifying individuals to receive their prescriptions at low or no cost while also helping clients pay for these costs.

The program is funded by the Foundation for Community Health, as well as the Dyson Foundation. The Foundation for Community Health’s funding is specific to Copake and Ancram areas only and allows the program to pay for up to $250.00 per person, per month towards their prescriptions. The Dyson Foundation allows the program to serve Columbia, Greene, and Northern Dutchess Counties and works on a case by case basis for each client.

Lynda reports that pharmacies are strict in how prescriptions are paid for. Therefore, typically the only pharmacies this program can work with in Columbia County are Pine Plains Pharmacy and all Price Chopper pharmacies. In Greene County however, there are many friendly, local pharmacies such as Greene Medical Arts, Windham Pharmacy, and Kelly’s. Oftentimes, Lynda will get a call from these pharmacies referring clients that need help in paying for their scripts.

Lynda reassured members that the need for this program will not disappear with all of the changes going on in healthcare today. In fact, the cost of prescriptions themselves have increased dramatically. She stated that this program has been able to fill the gaps for clients that may have insurance, but are unable to pay the high costs associated with filling their prescriptions.

This program has especially been beneficial to seniors with Medicare who may fall into the “donut hole”. Clients that reach $3,300 of prescription costs will fall into a coverage gap, known as the “donut hole” where their insurance will no longer cover the cost of the prescriptions. Clients that fall into this coverage gap are often left scrambling to fill their prescriptions.

Besides addressing these issues, Lynda provides options counseling to discuss what other needs aren’t being met. She assists qualifying clients in applying for a Medicare Savings Program with the Department of Social Services, inform clients about possible health insurance options, and refer them to other appropriate agencies.

With no further questions, this concluded the presentation.

**Columbia County Community Healthcare Consortium, Inc.**

**Meeting of the Entire Board**

**August 3, 2016**

**Executive Director’s Report**

**Board and Community Relations**

* I attended CMH’s ribbon cutting events at the VA clinic at Greene Medical Arts on June 2nd and Copake Rapid Care on June 27th.
* On June 9th, I attended the Greene County Chamber of Commerce’s Annual Recognition Gala in Windham.
* On June 16th, I attended a dinner hosted by the NYSHealth Foundation in Beacon, NY where I met, for the first time, David Sandman, the Foundation’s new President and CEO, as well as Andrea Reynolds, President and CEO of the Dyson Foundation (a funder). Subsequently, I was asked and agreed to participate on the Foundation’s 15-member statewide Community Advisory Board. The first meeting of two annual meetings will occur this fall.
* On July 8th I attended the kickoff event for the Breast Cancer Awareness Ride at the Governor’s Mansion.
* On July 12th and 13th, I attended the National Rural Health Association Conference in Oakland, CA.
* On July 15th, my family and I hosted what I hope will be just the first “Fellowship Event” for the Board.
* On July 22nd, I attended an informal gathering at the Eccleston Farm in Claverack, meeting board members from the Rip Van Winkle Foundation and the Rheinstrom Hill Community Foundation.
* On July 28th, I helped PAS It On to make a showing at the Greene County Youth Fair by donating all the giveaways, creating the displays, and setting up and “manning” the table for a few hours on the first day.

**Strategy & Program Planning**

* On June 10th, I attended the Behavioral Health Consumer Forum and the Regional Planning Consortium Kickoff Meeting, both at Empire State Plaza in Albany and both extremely helpful to me as I try to learn about the transition to manage care and especially HARP and HCBS. The following week, I attended the third meeting of the Behavioral Health Community Crisis Stabilization Subcommittee of the AMCH DSRIP PPS, where Bob Holtz, of CDPHP, presented on the transition to Medicaid Managed Care, HARP and HCBS. Finally, on June 15thI participated in a meeting in Hudson jointly hosted by CDPHP and Community Cares Behavioral Health Organization regarded Managed Care, HARP and HCBS. At this point, I feel “up to speed.” I also learned that, as a provider of non-medical transportation services only, we do NOT need to contract with each plan, nor will our process for dispatch and claiming payment look any different than it currently does for Medicaid medical transportation.
* On June 22nd, I travelled with a sizable posse of local providers to meet with the developers of the forthcoming Dutchess County Community Crisis Stabilization Center.
* On July 18th, I participated in the second of the Capital Region Planning Consortium meetings at the Capital District Psychiatric Center. My participation will be ongoing, possibly at the board level.
* The Strategic Planning Committee which includes all the members of the Executive Committee as well as Michael Cole, Chelly Hegan, and Tina Sharpe, has now met twice, on June 30th and August 1st (see notes in your packets). The discussion is proceeding nicely.

**Resource Development**

* At last, NYSOFA approved our budget modification request, permitting us to restructure and hire for the NYConnects Program.
* We have now submitted the contract documents (budget, work plan, etc.) for the next contract year (starting October 1, 2016 and ending September 30, 2017) of the Navigator Program

**Fiscal Management**

* Fiscal Manager John Ray and I are currently working on a format for regular financial reporting to the Entire Board.

**Program & Personnel Management**

Our restructuring is now complete!

Highlights:

* Lisa Thomas was promoted to Director of Consumer Assistance Programs, with oversight for the Navigator Program, the NYConnects Program, the Prescription Access and Referral Program, and the Financial Assistance Funds. She now directly supervises eight (8) staff. She has also been clearly positioned as the “second-in-command” and the person on whom all should rely in my absence.
* Doreen Rodriguez was promoted to Program Coordinator for the Navigator Program
* Elaine Allen has changed job titles to become a Community Educator in the Navigator Program
* Kelly McGiffert has been hired as a part-time Navigator
* Taylor Wenk hired as a full-time Information and Assistance Specialist in the NYConnects Program

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