Holyoke/Chicopee Site Board Meeting Minutes

***PLACE: 4 VALLEY MILL RD, 3RD FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM-HOLYOKE, MA 01040***

DATE: 9/20/17

TIME: 2:40 PM

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 2:40 PM

MEETING ADJOURNED: 3:50 PM

*NEXT MEETING: 11/15/17 @ 2:30PM at WestMass Elder Care*

RECORDER: Brad Cole

ATTENDEES: Brad, Terry, Doug, Melissa, Jim and Denise

ABSENT: Kym S.

*Approval of prior Meeting Minutes:*

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| **TOPIC** | **DISCUSSION** | **ASSIGNMENT/TASK** | **POINT PERSON** | **NOTES** |
| Board members  New Hire | Mentioned that Kym is now an official site board member. Her three yr term expires on 7/11/20. Congrats to Kym!  Mentioned to the board members that a new supervisor, Mel Maldonado, was hired in mid-July. He is full-time and is engaged with his staff and the work. | Brad will send Denise H the board application documents  N/A | Brad  N/A | Denise H is interested in becoming a formal site board member. Brad will send her all the documents for her to complete. |
| Respite RFR  CPD/HPD meeting  Guardianships  DMH/MRC Pilot program  Hampden County Health Issues | Updated the board members as to the status of the Respite RFR  Discussed with the board the two meetings that this writer has had with the CPD/HPD. One of the purposes of this meeting is to help improve communication and collaboration between the CPD/HPD and community agencies.  Brought up the issue of the ongoing difficulty DMH has been having over the last several years finding individuals {attorneys or other people} who are willing to become guardians.  Jim from MRC gave a brief overview of the pilot project with DMH and MRC.  Doug brought up this issue again. He had mentioned it in our April, 2017 meeting. | Brad will email the board when the information can become public knowledge.  Brad will follow-up about inviting someone from Holyoke Medical Ctr as the CPD/HPD often are involved in ED transport.  Brad will send information to Doug about the role/responsibilities of being a guardian.  N/A  Doug will update us at our Nov Meeting | Brad  Brad  Brad  Jim and Kym from MRC  Doug | Because negotiations are still in process the information about which agency is in negotiations is not public knowledge.  The first “formal” meeting occurred on 9/15/17. Twenty-two individuals attended this meeting. Nine CPD officers attended, including Chief Jebb, and two HPD officers attended as well. Also present were, CHD staff, Eliot Homeless prog staff, Chicopee School Dept staff, and BHN staff.  We also had some discussion about Sect 35’s for substance abusers that present with risk issues{mostly including medical} and how many facilities will not accept the Sect 35 due to the medical issue.  Doug asked questions about the role/responsibilities of being a guardian.  CHD is also involved in this pilot project to try and better serve the Transitional Aged Youth {TAY} ages 18- to 26. Lee Anne Hegarty from DMH and Jason Haas from CHD are also involved. Meetings have occurred as well as conference calls. Although a number of individuals {25-30} in this age range have been identified many are not interested due to active symptoms, wanting school over work and some are just not interested. Two new referrals have been generated by this. There are already two individuals who have been involved with MRC and they have been able to support this and they both try to “talk up” MRC with their peers.  Kym is the MRC counselor who has been identified to work directly with these individuals.  New Bedford and Fitchburg sites are also involved in this project.  Behavioral Health is a significant issue that was discussed in this report. Julie Schwager, Western Mass Area Dir, did attend the last meeting. Previously, no one from DMH attended the meetings. Subcommittees have been developed to look at this issue with the goal of trying to improve behavioral health care issues. This will likely be a difficult task because some of this may be tied to funding/budget issues. There is an Area Board meeting during the week of 9/25/17 which Julie will present/discuss updates. |

**DMH STAFF:** Minutes should be emailed to **DMH-DL – Open Meeting Notices** after they are approved by the Public Body.