Autism Commission

Adult Sub-Committee Meeting Minutes

February 27, 2017 – 1:00pm –3:00pm

500 Harrison Avenue

Present at the meeting were Janet George, Kathy Sanders, Mark Dumas, Maria Stefano, Dianne Lescinskas, Lea Hill, Lisa Saba, Rita Gardner, Tim Cahill, Nancy Marticio, Cynthia Berkowitz, Gail Gillespie, and Nancy Marticio.

Accessing the meeting remotely: Dave Tobin

Janet George stated that the meeting was subject to the Open Meeting Law and that the Sub-Committee members present would need to vote to approve the remote participation of some members because of their geographic location, whenever any members were utilizing video and/or tele-conferencing. Remote access was approved unanimously. Minutes from January were reviewed and approved unanimously.

The meeting started with discussion around proposed goals in preparation for the Autism Commission Meeting on March 6th. All of the sub-committees are charged to give 2-3 recommendations at the meeting. This committee discussed Short-Term, Mid-Term and Long-Term goals that will be targeted at different levels of care.

MCPAP was discussed at length and it was mentioned that there will be a meeting with DMH to look at the viability of moving forward with a MCPAP for ASD.

The meeting moved towards reviewing the proposed goals (prepared by the co-chairs) for presentation at the meeting on March 6th. (see attached handout)

1. Develop a robust continuum of care:

* Inpatient
* Crisis
* Outpatient/community (to cover respite and supports that go with it)

Respite for the family member(s) was discussed – few that exist. What social supports exist for families?

Additional community supports will help with the clinical need. The DMH Clubhouse model was discussed and could we look at this model based on the needs of ASD population.

Day Programs – have some features for ASD but not all. Another recommendation for future meetings could be for Adults and Day Supports – table this for next meeting.

The Emergency Department Referral Form and Wallet Card were reviewed:

* Look at the ALEC ASD card for more information
* Make copies of the draft Wallet Card and Form for the Commission Meeting
* Maria and Lea will drop off completed forms and cards to the Autism Commission Office
* Additional language was suggested for the form; a question regarding language used at home

Training – the discussion moved to hospital training at Mass. General Hospital where all staff (9,000) were trained on ASD.

* What were the results of the training
* Did the training make a difference in staff understanding of ASD
* Follow up with Mass. General and Ruderman Foundation about the training

1. Develop a robust system of family supports for adults

* Autism Support Centers to offer ASD parent support groups
* Family mentoring programs and supports
* Mobile respite and crisis supports to families to deflect or defer ER visits

1. Develop and enhance supports to counter social isolation

* Explore methods to increase engagement in community life – what activities would the adult population engage in?
* Explore and offer alternative methods of transportation – difficult solutions for Western part of the state – Uber/Lyft – will help with employment and community life
* Increase opportunity for peer mentoring and stress reduction

Upcoming meetings were scheduled for as follows:

March 20th – 1:00-3:00pm

April 24th – 1:00-3:00pm

May 22nd – 1:00-3:00pm

June 26th – 1:00-3:00pm

All meetings will take place at 500 Harrison Ave. and members will receive an invite with materials prior to each meeting.

The Co-chairs of this committee will send out an updated version of the recommendations that will be presented on March 6th to the Autism Commission.

With no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 3:00pm