

## **Minutes – Criminal Justice Alternative to Incarceration Meeting**

Date: July 24, 2024

Time: 12:00-1:30 pm

Location: Virtual Meeting

**Attendees:** Bridgette Nugent, Harmony Ayers-Friedlander, Lauran Harrison, Matthew Van Houten, Jerry Wright, Ray Bunce, Sherron Brown, Sadie Crusade, Scott Miller, Deana Bodnar, David Sanders J.R., Daniel Cornell, Louise Miller, Mike James, Rich John.

- 1. Welcome and Introductions:** Bridgette welcomed everyone, there were no introductions.
- 2. Changes to Agenda:** No changes.
- 3. Minutes Approval:** The minutes from the June meeting were approved.
- 4. Updates:**
  - a. Chair's Update, Bridgette Nugent:**
    - i. Bridgette shared that the County Strategic Operations Plan has been adopted by the Legislature. It is the first Strategic Operations plan. It adopts a mission, vision and values statement, reinforces the county's diversity statement and identifies 5 key priority areas with strategic objectives for each area. The work of the CJATI is included in the plan.
    - ii. There will be no August meeting. The next meeting will be on September 25<sup>th</sup>.
  - b. Tompkins County Whole Health: Mental Health Division: Updates on mental health/substance use disorder treatment options: Harmony Ayers-Friedlander-** Harmony shared information about the new MH and Substance Use services that are coming to TC.
    - i. Substance Use services: When the Alcohol and Drug Council closed it left a gap in services for people with substance use disorders. The request for proposals (RFP's) to find a new provider of those services was released last week. Proposals are being accepted until August 20<sup>th</sup>. The goal is to have a decision made by September 17<sup>th</sup>. There are 3 separate RFP's.
      1. Primary Prevention, which can cover services for the lifespan. This RFP will cover services to students and youth that need early intervention.
      2. Medically supervised outpatient clinic which will meet the needs of people in the community that are involved in intensive outpatient care, and medication assistance treatment services.

3. Medically Supervised Withdrawal and Residential Stabilization Services which will have 20 beds to treat people that need inpatient care and stabilization. Once the services are established it will create a complete continuum of care in TC that has not existed before.
- ii. Transitional Housing Supports:
1. Serenity house is a program that has been established for adults transitioning from an inpatient rehab program to sober, independent living. The house is newly remodeled and is in a quiet, safe neighborhood.
  2. Another transitional housing program is a “Place to Stay”, this program is being funded by Opioid settlement funds. The program provides intensive case management peer support services for women, that wrap around the individual. It is a housing first program designed for people that are in and out of jail or the emergency room that are not being hospitalized. They are working on establishing another house for men.
  3. There is a regional short term transitional residence that is due to open in late 2025. This program is designed to house people that are being released from state hospitals. The residents will receive ACT services, peer support, skills development and help applying for benefits. The length of stay in this program is typically 120 days.
  4. There are 10 treatment apartments in TC, this housing is for people with serious mental illness and/or cooccurring substance use. Priority is given to those that have been released from a state operated psychiatric center or residential programs or those transitioning to a lower level of care from other OMH housing services. Individuals will receive assessment that allows for a plan to create meaningful goals to gain skills and independence.
- iii. Other Housing Initiatives:
1. The Safe Options Support Team (SOS) is an intensive outreach, care and engagement services team that provides services to individuals that are experiencing street homelessness, and those in temporary shelters that have mental health, substance use and/or developmental disabilities. The team consists of 9 people that includes 2 licensed clinicians, 2 care managers, and 2 peer specialists and a team leader as well as 2 RSS (Rehabilitation Support Services) staff members. This is a three-county model that covers Cortland, Tompkins and Tioga County. The services will be provided by RSS with funding from the State Office of Mental Health. The model

includes intensive support housing slots for people that are receiving SOS or ACT (Assertive Community Team) services, Tompkins County received 11 of the slots with 3 currently filled. At this point this is a 5-year funded program.

2. Stately Apartments will be available in 2026 for people that are earning 30%-60% of the median income. There will be 57 apartments, 20 of which will be reserved for ESHHI with rent subsidies and case management provided by Catholic Charities. Another 15 of the apartments will be reserved for people with a history of substance use disorder and 5 more apartments will be for unhoused survivors of Domestic Violence (DV).
3. The Meadows at Seneca will offer rehabilitation support services with 70 units located at 116 North Meadow Street. 25 of the units will be for permanent supportive housing for individuals with serious mental illness and unhoused survivors of DV.

iv. New Support Services:

1. TCMH will have an intensive outpatient program in their clinic. The clinic will serve folks that need more than 1x a week services. They are partnering with Ithaca College to offer services to individuals with Traumatic Brain Injury; they will offer Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy and Speech and Language Therapy as well as support connecting to and maintaining other services and benefits.
2. The Office of Mental Health in Binghamton will have 25 new beds in 2025. They will be able to treat individuals that need long-term MH care that are currently in private hospitals and jails.
3. The CARE team is being expanded with another team being added to allow for coverage in the evening hours and on weekends.
4. The Critical Time Transition Coordinator will meet with people that are being discharged from the hospital and being released from jail, that have significant MH needs, to connect them to the services in the community.

Scott asked if the St. Johns housing service will be connected to the shelter. Harmony said that the connection to that program can be independent of the shelter, it is not only open to people that are in the shelter. He asked if any of the new housing programs will be in the new Asteri building on Green St. She said that her office is learning more about Asteri and their needs. Ray asked how placements in the new housing programs happen. Harmony said that there are several groups that can make referrals and then the individuals are reviewed on a case-by-case basis by the different partners.

Sherron asked how to find a place that can refer someone to the new housing programs. Harmony said that the SPOA coordination information is on the TCMH website. She said that she can connect with Liddy Barger to connect with the continuum of care.

Dave asked what can be done for people that are released from rehabilitation programs that are experiencing substance use disorder but have no MH diagnosis and are at a higher risk of relapsing. She said that there are no mandatory programs and that is a need that has to be filled. He also asked if there will be competition for limited resources in the community between the existing programs and the new programs. She said that this is a problem, and they are creating an assessment tool to gauge where workplace shortages are and what the impact is. This will help us to find solutions to recruit workers. Dave asked Bridgette if information can be provided to local agencies that outline which program is appropriate for clients they are working with. Bridgette will connect with Liddy and the HSC to develop something.

Bridgette asked where the short-term transitional residence will be located. Harmony said it will be in Cortland.

**c. Long Term Inmate Report, Matt Van Houten:** Matt said that one person is still in the jail while his defense attorneys ask for time so they can collect and present psychiatric evidence. One person is on the list for a violation of probation and will be released soon. Two people are waiting for sentencing. Another person is waiting for placement in a state psychiatric hospital. There are two more people waiting for sentencing. One person is waiting for their trial and their case is progressing. Another person has been sentenced and his case is completely resolved.

**d. Updates:** Sherron reminded everyone that CIU is currently recruiting for their October programming.

**5. Adjournment- Bridgette** – The meeting was adjourned at 1:36 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for September 25<sup>th</sup> at 12:00.