



Tompkins County
COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES BOARD

Tompkins County Whole Health
201 East Green Street
Ithaca, New York 14850-5421

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Substance Use Subcommittee

Substance Use Subcommittee Meeting
June 14th, 2023, 12:00 pm **Via Zoom**
Meeting Minutes

Approved 7.11.23

Present: Tom Lipa; Marley Brooks; and Jacob Parker Carver

Excused: Stu Bergman; Ron Schoneman

Unexcused: Molly Murphy

Guests: Briggs Seekins, Challenge; Brad Walworth, CARS; Stacy Cangelosi, ADC; and Samantha Stevenson, REACH Medical

Staff Present: Karan Palazzo, LGU-Administrative Assistant, TCWH

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The meeting was called to order at 12:05 pm by Jacob. Introductions were made. A quorum was not met, and the April minutes could not be approved.
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Privileges of the Floor:

Announcements/Correspondence: Jacob announced that he and Marley have taken over the positions of co-chairs of the Substance Use Subcommittee. He thanked Stu, who is out of town, for his many years of service and for filling it when Tom unexpectedly was unable to finish out his term as chair. Marley asked members for ideas/topics to discuss in future meetings. She asked for referrals of individuals who would be interested in becoming members on the Substance Use Subcommittee.

REACH Medical Presentation Continued: Samantha Stevenson, Director of Operations at REACH continued her PowerPoint presentation with their LEAD program. Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) is a program that takes people out of the criminal justice system who commit low-level crimes rooted in poverty, mental health, or substance use. After securing the LEAD grant in 2020, the logistics of the grant allowed REACH Medical to support individuals to get on their feet including security deposits and the first month's rent in apartments. They work with other local organizations and agencies to meet any other needs.

Local Ithaca Police Department Officers, Mary Orsaio and Ryan Carr have been amazing with over 52 low-level crimes being diverted to the LEAD Program. REACH Medical has three case managers who assist diverted individuals with housing, basic needs, transportation issues, and connect them to doctors. Housing is the most important issue for individuals. In 2022 there were twenty-four referrals with twenty-one chronically homeless and all have been permanently housed. LEAD has been extremely successful in securing housing and breaking down financial barriers but the LEAD grant ends in October 2023. A new grant is being written and they are figuring out ways to sustain the program if the grant is not granted again.

LEAD utilizes SPOA for housing to be sustainable as it is not able to pay rent month after month. LEAD is beneficial by providing people with supplements to what DSS is giving and filling gaps within the system after the paperwork is completed. The waitlist, money/funding, the DSS process, hoarding, infestations, and those that supportive housing doesn't work for are all barriers. Stacy added that she is part of a Continuum of Care group that finds hoarding is also a barrier and those who do get housed generously

help out their friends with a place to stay, which then becomes a landlord issue. It is a topic of concern and might need a full-time person to help with the issue after obtaining permanent housing.

Referrals are from IPD, community referrals, or from weekly multidisciplinary team meetings. Samantha said that REACH Medical does not have any role in the administrative portion of LEAD but will reach out to Travis Winter, LEAD Project Manager. REACH Medical has an Ongoing Working Group (OWG) that includes Travis Winter, all the case managers, assistant defense attorneys, general defense attorneys, IPD officers, St. John's Shelter, a TCA representative, and herself who meet weekly. She suggested that an ADC representative join the OWG weekly meetings.

Marley brought up the idea of REACH collaborating with ACT to ensure success for those overlapping supportive services. Samantha agreed and said she is looking to make low threshold hard reduction-based case management sustainable through reimbursements. Jacob said that if case management services are centralized, the foundation for multiple community partners, who agree upon and share compliant consent will break down silos to increase communication and collaboration. It could also include people receiving multiple services from different providers.

Samantha shared that REACH Medical will have two more mobile units in the fall and will treat Hep C, wound care, and acute visits for those experiencing homelessness in the community. They will also be adding two outreach cars in the fall and continue to provide addiction medicine consulting services at CMC. A full-time midwife was hired to handle the increase of pregnant people who are on drugs or are on Suboxone and feeling stigmatized. A full-time 40hr/week Psych Nurse Practitioner was hired to provide psych med management but currently only for REACH patients. The resident program continues, where they go into the jungle.

REACH is working with Cornell to develop permanent supportive housing on their campus with REACH only having an on-site office with case managers, community responders, doctors, and nurses. The plan will include satellite offices for other organizations to provide services. This permanent supportive housing plan will take a few years.

Provider Updates:

ADC – Stacy announced that Angela Sullivan has retired, and she is the interim Executive Director of ADC. They look forward to the opening of the new Detox Center on Triphammer Road but are experiencing extreme staffing issues, especially with nurses and medical staff. They plan to open in phases of some services until they are fully staffed. The clinic is moving to summer mode. School interactions were very high this year and more kids are struggling and needing more services.

CARS – Brad shared that the mobile unit is almost ready and will first go to Chenango County where the need is great. They are in talks with Cortland County for an Opioid Treatment Program. Cayuga Health has been supportive of its residential program.

Jacob thanked everyone for attending the meeting. He said that since he and Marley are the co-chairs they will be reaching out to members in the coming weeks for input for the subcommittee and ways to make the subcommittee more useful and beneficial to the community. They will be actively recruiting members to join the subcommittee.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:54 p.m.

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**The next Substance Use Subcommittee Meeting
will be held on July 12, 2023, from 12 – 1 pm**