



Tompkins County
COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES BOARD

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

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Jacob Parker Carver and Marley Brooks, Co-Chairs
Substance Use Subcommittee

Substance Use Subcommittee Meeting
December 13, 2023 – 12 to 1 p.m. Via Zoom
Meeting Minutes

Minutes Approved
April 10, 2024

Present: Marley Brooks; Jacob Parker Carver; and Ron Schoneman

Excused: Stu Bergman; and Tom Lipa

Unexcused:

Guests: Briggs Seekins, Challenge; Myriah Dolson, ADC; Brad Walworth, CARS; Roy Murdough, St. John’s; Noah Valdez; Eli Baez, St. John’s; Stacy Cangelosi, ADC; Scott Sherwood, IRC; and Brandi Remington TST BOCES

Staff Present: Rich Shaw, TCWH; Frankcheskia Pyrtle, TCWH; Zoe Lincoln, TCWH; and Karan Palazzo, LGU-Administrative Assistant, TCWH

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The meeting was called to order at 12:05 p.m. by Jacob. Introductions were made. A quorum was not met and the October 11, 2023, minutes could not be approved.
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Privileges of the Floor: None

Announcements/Correspondence: None

Ithaca Community Recovery (ICR) Updates

Ithaca Community Recovery: Scott shared that he was recently elected President of the ICR Board. ICR’s 80% funding comes from direct community support by way of donations and has recently started looking into grants. It offers various recovery programs with low barriers to start the recovery journey and is mostly peer-run with 230 meetings/month calculating to over 30,000 visits per year, not including Zoom.

The community events are a focus for the organization, providing a platform for the entire recovery community to come together and support each other. ICR is **completely free** with a welcoming environment and encourages newcomers to join the community. Zoom offers a lower-friction experience for newcomers, allowing them to join meetings without feeling overwhelmed or intimidated. He referred to their website which lists all their meetings. He encouraged all to reach out to him personally for any questions or concerns

The Chill Challenge is on January 1, 2024, at the Yacht Club at 1 pm, and is one of their fundraising campaigns.

Silent Unity – Aims to connect people in recovery with local small businesses and nonprofits through employment opportunities, to choose recovery time. Prioritizes recovery in all forms (physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual) to the company and its

employees. It emphasizes the importance of compassion, integrity, and transparency, which provides support for people in recovery. Their mission is to provide recovery services to individuals in need, with a focus on building trust and partnerships with local nonprofits and small businesses. Low barriers to meeting people where they are. Teaming up with local agencies that provide recovery services become staffing partners who can provide employment opportunities. The staffing partnership involves weekly newsletters and direct communication with recovery support for job placement.

The system aims to reduce stigma by making it easy for staffing partners to recommend candidates for job openings. Building trust through positive interactions between people in recovery and retailers is key to successful hiring and reducing stigma. Finding the right balance between hiring staff and selling services to potential clients has challenges but the staffing network is growing as the summer was spent learning how to do sales. They keep in mind the primary focus of the emotional, spiritual, and physical well-being of all of their staff.

Understand the scope of the workforce shortage as defined by soliciting staff vacancy information from provider agencies to better understand the scope of the workforce shortage.

- Solicit data on the reduction in services related to the workforce shortage

Provider Updates:

St. John’s Community Services – Roy shared that SJCS is now anticipating an opening in January 2024 due to house renovation work needing to be completed before opening and a postponed September meeting with the advisory committee in Albany. Tours of the house are available by reaching out to him. Eli added that an open house is scheduled for December 2023.

TST BOCES – Brandi shared that they hired a new prevention educator and are now fully staffed.

ADC- Stacy shared stabilization center is running and taking referrals, the detox center is not open due to staffing issues, outpatient is running smoothly with minor staffing issues. She referred to their Amazon wish list for the detox and stabilization for unexpected needs for residents to support their work.

CARS – Brad shared that they are working on a parking lot site location for the mobile van

Harmony shared that she attends the Issue Council with Senator Lea Webb’s office and mentioned how our subcommittees are developing ways to measure the workforce challenges/crisis as well as their impact. They thought it was a great idea and are interested in seeing if it can be implemented across the 52nd District which includes Tompkins, Cortland, and parts of Broome Counties.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

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**The next Substance Use Subcommittee Meeting
will be held on Wednesday, January 13, 2023, from 12 – 1 pm**