

HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD
MAY 18, 2022
SHARWELL BUILDING

CALL TO ORDER:

A meeting of the Human Services Advisory Board was Called To Order at 5:03 p.m. by Pete Smeltz, Chairman.

Members: Pete Smeltz, Chad Riley; Michele Hazel; Commissioner Mirabito, Emily Powell Hodges, Dr. Terri Calvert, Carla Mitcheltree, Commissioner Jeffrey Snyder; and Susan Newcomer.

Staff: Keith Wagner – Executive Director/MH-ID Administrator; Matt Salvatori - CYS Administrator; and Cathy Bennett - Administrative Assistant.

Guests: Jennifer Reeder – West Branch Drug and Alcohol Abuse Commission

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

Mr. Smeltz asked if everyone had reviewed the minutes from the meeting held on 4/13/22 and asked for a Motion. Commissioner Mirabito Moved and Carla Mitcheltree Seconded a Motion to:

“Approve the minutes from the April 13, 2022 Human Services Advisory Board meeting as presented by staff.”

The Motion passed unanimously.

CONTINUATION OF DISCUSSIONS:

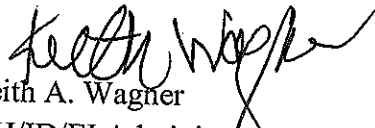
Mr. Smeltz noted that at the April 13th HSAB meeting, it was requested that a follow up meeting be scheduled with a focus on continuing discussions pertaining to the need for additional funding for mental health services. He briefly reviewed the email that Mr. Wagner sent to the HSAB on April 14th (Attachment A) which touched on a variety of areas to discuss in the future; however, it was agreed at that meeting to focus on the issue of the need for additional mental health funding.

The group continued the discussion from the last meeting pertaining to the idea of chartering a bus to go to Harrisburg to speak with legislators about mental health funding concerns. Keith expressed his concern that this might not be the best time to do that since the budget was most likely in place for the next fiscal year and Commissioner Snyder added that the information he had received from his CCAP contacts was that many legislators were not always present in Harrisburg at this time as they were working out of their local communities focusing on their campaigns for upcoming elections. Mr. Wagner noted that September was suicide prevention month and possibility a breakfast event could be coordinated sometime in this month to meet with local legislators to discuss the mental health funding concern. The group felt it would be greatly beneficial to have consumers and/or their family members be present to speak about their experiences at this event. It was requested that Mr. Wagner begin to pull this event together and that an additional meeting be held sometime in July to continue discussions.

OTHER BUSINESS, NEXT MEETING AND ADJOURNMENT:

It was noted that the next meeting quarterly meeting of the Human Services Advisory Board is scheduled for Wednesday, August 10th at 5:00 p.m. at the Sharwell; however, as noted above, another meeting to continue discussions about mental health funding concerns be considered for the month of July. With no further business before the HSAB, the meeting was adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,


Keith A. Wagner
MH/ID/EI Administrator

Cathy Bennett

From: Keith Wagner
Sent: Tuesday, May 31, 2022 4:42 PM
To: Cathy Bennett
Subject: FW: Human Services Advisory Board Discussion Follow-Up

Keith Wagner
 Executive Director, Lycoming-Clinton Joinder Board
 Administrator, Lycoming-Clinton MHID Programs
 200 East Street
 Williamsport, PA 17701
 570-326-7895 or 1-800-525-7938
 570-326-1348 (Fax)

From: Keith Wagner
Sent: Thursday, April 14, 2022 4:59 PM
To: Cathy Bennett <CBennett@Joinder.org>; Ben Green <bgreen@clintoncountyunitedway.org>; Carla Mitcheltree <crmitch@comcast.net>; Carol Sides <Csides3@comcast.net>; Chad Riley <chaz159@gmail.com>; Commissioner Jeffrey Snyder <jsnyder@clintoncountypa.com>; Commissioner Richard Mirabito <rmirabito@lyco.org>; Deb Zinck <dzinck@cccscservices.org> <dzinck@cccscservices.org>; Dr. Terri Calvert <terricalvert@me.com>; Emily Powell Hodges <emp109@lockhaven.edu>; Jennifer Lake <jenn@dwelloorphancare.org>; Jere Hoy <hoyjere@gmail.com>; Linday Tokay <lindatokay@gmail.com>; Marwin Reeves <mbijfam@icloud.com>; Michele Hazel <mrs.haz2020@gmail.com>; Robert "Pete" Smeltz <smeltz4@comcast.net>; Susan Newcomer <sue.newcomer@gmail.com>; Virginia Council <ginnerbug2@yahoo.com>
Cc: Matthew Salvatori <MaSalvatori@Joinder.org>; Kathy Hepler <khepler@Joinder.org>; Kathryn Lynn <klynn@Joinder.org>; Jann Meyers (jmeyers@clintoncountypa.com) <jmeyers@clintoncountypa.com>; Cindy Dawson (cdawson@lyco.org) <cdawson@lyco.org>
Subject: Human Services Advisory Board Discussion Follow-Up

Hello Everyone,

I want to thank you all for your participation in the Human Services Advisory Board Meeting last night. It was a terrific meeting with a lot of great ideas and excellent discussion. Matt and I really appreciate your willingness to share your ideas and your enthusiasm for improving the human services system in Lycoming and Clinton counties.

We talked about a lot of different ideas for next steps and I've been starting to gather them into a roadmap for us to follow in the coming months. The high points I noted from last night's meeting included the need for greater community engagement/outreach by the Advisory Board and the families/consumers of human services that can increase community awareness, reduce stigma, etc. ; a need to advocate for increased funding, especially with legislators on behalf of mental health services; a need for increased supports for families, whether that be a 'parent's night out', a support-group type event, a method to address transportation needs for families, including foster families, and recognizing the unique needs/barriers for families of individuals with intellectual disabilities and/or mental health issues to participate in community advocacy events.

We decided to meet again in 4-6 weeks to help us maintain our momentum. **Would May 17th or May 18th at 5:00 PM work for you – please let me know if one or the other works better for you (or both).**

In thinking about meeting with our legislators to impress upon them the importance of funding mental health services, we discussed chartering a bus and traveling to Harrisburg to meet with them. Given the tightness of time before they vote for the budget this year, I was thinking we could take a slightly different approach that will combine several of the topics we discussed.

My thought is to reach out to the current representatives from Lycoming and Clinton Counties (Hamm, Wheeland, Yaw, Borowicz and Dush) and any candidates running in the primary (I know there are candidates running for Mr. Wheeland's seat, not sure about any other seats) and invite them all to a public forum-type event sponsored by the Human Services Advisory Board. We could include finger-foods and offer a specialized childcare event so parents could participate knowing their children will be engaged in a positive and safe way. We could then invite consumers and families of human services to attend, along with service providers and other stakeholders (e.g. the schools, the courts, the hospital, etc.) In this way we could give our local representatives a full picture of the human service needs in the bi-county, while also educating the public and empower the consumers and families to represent themselves and their experiences.

The Joinder staff could help prepare talking points that we could review and discuss at the May meeting. We could also recognize the years of experience of many of our Advisory Board members during the event so the legislators understand the years of knowledge and 'lived' experience addressing them. We could also invite the local press (both print and TV) so we make sure our message is getting out beyond those in attendance.

Matt and I would be happy to contact each of the legislators to arrange a date in their collective calendars. Ideally, it would be nice for them to be in person, but in the event they cannot, we could arrange a zoom option for them. Also, we would need to find an appropriate location to hold the event that includes space for the child event and the public forum – any ideas would be appreciated.

Let me know your thoughts on the next meeting date and the proposal to hold a public forum with the legislators and any other ideas you have. I will be out of the office tomorrow, but will return Monday.

Thank you all again.

keith

Keith Wagner
Executive Director, Lycoming-Clinton Joinder Board
Administrator, Lycoming-Clinton MHID Programs
200 East Street
Williamsport, PA 17701
570-326-7895 or 1-800-525-7938
570-326-1348 (Fax)