

PRESENT: Scott Etherton, Arnold Remington, Phil Tegeler, Christa Yoakum, Gail Anderson, Craig Price

OTHER PRESENT: Debra Haeffner

ABSENT: Terri Burchess, Nancy Field

Advance public notice of the Advisory Board Meeting was posted: 555 S.10th building public bulletin board, Lincoln Journal Star, lancaster.ne.gov ('s) Crisis Center web page on or before March 7, 2022. The meeting was opened at 12:05p.m. Chair noted the location of Open Meetings Act at front of the conference room. Call for approval of the December Minutes by roll call vote -- 4 ayes (Etherton, Remington, Tegeler, Anderson); Yoakum abstained. Price entered the meeting at 12:15pm.

Advisory Board Membership: LPD Changes/Community Recruitment ~ Law enforcement's position on the Board will be covered by one appointed personnel and two alternates. An application will be forwarded to Tim Dolberg, mental health investigator, as he will be the primary attendee. Discussion of community member recruitment resulted in a variety of suggestions, i.e., the Mental Health Association, Bryan Health Systems, personal/professional acquaintances were all mentioned. The By-Laws need to be updated to reflect how the Board currently functions and these have been sent to the county attorney for a re-write.

MHCC Building Updates: Housekeeping ~ Etherton will discuss areas of concern with building and maintenance with a focus on the living unit. During the last cold spell, system adjustments were made to achieve an increased level of comfort for the clients we serve.

High Acuity Rooms ~ These rooms have seen an increase in use as individuals are needing longer length of stays in these areas. Individuals may present with longer episodes of psychosis and violent behaviors. With more time spent by clients in these rooms, the damage requiring repair is commensurate. To date, all repairs have been done in-house and involve gluing of seams and/or painting the damaged surfaces. These rooms have demonstrated improved results with fewer reports of injury due to hard surfaces than the previous location, however, the material the rooms are constructed with has not been as durable as hoped.

Electronic Medical Records/Credible: The Partner Agencies Board will be re-activating soon and more information will be shared as available. Credible is offering some free on-line trainings regarding billing and the Business Intelligence modules. These will be available by webinar.

Staffing Updates: The loan forgiveness program incentive for hiring RNs has not yet been utilized and has produced minimal interest as of date, it has potential. One full-time RN has been hired with County Board's approval to cover the cost of a work visa/green card. This individual is currently shadowing and will be ready to go in a few weeks. We are continuously advertising for full-time registered nurses. Corinne Crouch has been hired as the new evening shift Team Supervisor. She is nearly trained and will be ready to go solo. The Crisis Center has lost some of our on-call technicians to the Lincoln Regional Center. During IBEW contract negotiations, a higher classification was proposed for the mental health technicians and the vote to ratify is scheduled for March 16.

Psychologist Recruitment ~ This remains a challenge with the current economy. There has been no recent show of interest in this position. A review of the rate of pay for this position will continue.

Mental Health Clinician II ~ With the approval of County Board this position is currently being advertised for hire.

Eleanor Creative Update ~ All the interviews have been completed at MHCC and we are waiting on the outcome.

Miscellaneous: COVID-19 ~ All protocols remain in place throughout the building with one exception of masks being optional on the business side of the building. The congregate areas still require the wearing of masks. The sanitation/cleaning of the communal areas remains aggressive, and temperature and symptoms screenings continue. Quick testing is available and used as warranted for new admits.

Phone Systems Upgrade ~ This is complete and all in working order. Equipment such as headsets were tested with one purchased for use by the Managed Care Coordinator.

Staff Training ~ The previously scheduled training had to be nixed due to lacking coverage. The month of May is the next best option.

LB #1223 ~ This bill, about restoration of competency, was discussed. It was noted that Commissioner Schorr testified on behalf of the county at that hearing.

Region V Minimum Standards Audit ~ The letter and findings were available for review at this meeting. MHCC received a 100% compliance rating.

ARPA Funding: Tabled until further action.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, April 13, 2022 – Noon at 825 J Street.

