

Minutes – Criminal Justice Alternative to Incarceration Meeting

Date: September 27, 2023

Time: 12:00-1:30 pm

Location: Virtual Meeting

Attendees: Bridgette Nugent, Peter Salton, Matt VanHouten, Jerry Wright, Deana Bodnar, Keegan Young, David Sanders, Stacy Cangelosi, Kate Shanks-Booth, Tammy Bakers, Rich John, Taili Mugambee, Judy Griffin, Scott Miller, Lance Salisbury, Herb Alexander, Julia Ressler, Mike James.

1. **Welcome and Introductions:** Bridgette asked everyone to introduce themselves and to give updates. There were no updates shared at this time.
2. **Changes to Agenda:** The presentation from Cayuga Medical Center will be at 12:30.
3. **Minutes Approval:** July minutes approved.
4. **Updates:**
 - a. **Chair’s Update- Bridgette Nugent** – Bridgette has asked that folks send agenda items and topic suggestions to her for the remaining two meetings of the year.
 - b. **Discussion on Crisis Response & 24/7 Crisis Stabilization:** Julia Ressler and Herb Alexander from Cayuga Medical Center shared a presentation about the proposed crisis stabilization center. The Center was developed in response to the lack of intensive MH and substance use disorder care in the community. There are a high number of people visiting the ER with substance use and MH disorders. There are also very long wait times for outpatient MH treatment. When people have a crisis in the middle of the night, the options they have for intervention are the ER or jail.

The stabilization center will provide peer support, a homelike environment, nursing assessment and monitoring. The center will also provide medical prescribing and MSW/LCSW/CASAC assessment. The stay at the center will be 24 hours or less. CMC has not been awarded funds by the NYS yet.

Referrals will come from walk -ins, law enforcement, and other agencies/crisis line staff. Dave asked what the capacity will be. He also asked what the follow-up will be to the referring agencies. Julia said that “closing the loop” will be a focus of services. The goal is to partner with other agencies that can support the planning process and the follow-up for patients. She said that the estimate for capacity is 44 patients a day. Tammy asked what happens if someone needs to stay longer. If they have nowhere else to go or they need longer time for stabilization. Julie said the unofficial response would be that a person could walk out and then come back in. She said the state also has a model they use that allows for continued

observation when needed. Julie said this can be discussed as agencies inform the planning.

Rich asked if there is more information about the follow-up to aftercare. He also asked if there is anything more that the County can do to support the opening of the center. Herb said that the center is going to affiliate with Arnot Health; which allow for more access to resources. The affiliation has held up the opening but once it is publicly announced the opening will come faster. Julia reiterated that they are still waiting for approval for funding from the federal and state governments.

Judy asked if the 23 hour limit is a compliance issue or an insurance reimbursement issue. Julia said that an ongoing conversation and planning will lead to allowing people to stay if they need to, but the goal is to develop good relationships with follow-up agencies. Herb said that the County has already been a great support and continuing the support and communication. Judy asked if food and clothes would be available. Julia said yes. Rich asked if respite housing would be available as well. Julia said the State has funded supportive housing and it is something to consider. Judy said there is a model in Pittsburgh that should be researched as an option.

Bridgette asked if CMC had updates to send them to and she will share them with the CJATI Board. She also said that CMC will be invited back to a future meeting once there is further progress to report on.

c. Mapping ATIs in Tompkins County, continued Discussion- Rich John-

Bridgette sent a list of questions provided by Rich ahead of the meeting, for further discussion by the group:

i. Are there gaps in the ATIs and are there any pieces missing?

Rich said that Tompkins County seems to have more ATIs than any other county in NYS. He asked the group what they thought about anything that is missing. Matt said that expanding LEAD would help. There are constraints for the number of people that can be helped because of the number of case workers available. Rich asked what would it take to expand? Matt said more money so that at least one more case manager can be hired. Matt and Rich talked about LEAD being expanded past the city of Ithaca. Rich is going to have a conversation with Travis Brooks to get an update for that expansion.

Tammy asked if there was a chance that people can have ankle monitors when they are in court ordered rehab as an incentive to get them to stay rather than having a warrant issued if they leave early. Matt said that ankle

monitors can't be monitored outside of the county so they would not work for someone in rehab.

- ii. Are there redundancies? Redundancies aren't bad if there is a need for the services but if there are services that aren't being used the money might be more useful somewhere else. Dave said that an area that seems to be flooded is outreach. There seems to be a lack of coordination more than redundancy. Helping the outreach programs work more collaboratively could prove to be more successful. Rich agreed that they should be working in a coordinated way.

Taili asked what programs are doing outreach. Tammy said LEAD, REACH, APS, OAR, F&CS, Youth Outreach, Deb Wilke, Salvation Army, ACDC, and Marie Boyer. Tammy agrees that there is a lack of coordination. Judy said that what she sees is the LEAD and REACH workers coordinate well. Rich asked if people feel that building a coordinated system of outreach workers would work. Tammy said that also having an online data system to load applications and service details for people that are served by multiple agencies can help streamline processes and help people get services faster. Kate said that there are some legal concerns around using that system in making sure that information is protected. Peter said there should be a uniformity of information to provide continuity of care. Judy said that any information related to substance use disorder and mental health is protected beyond HIPAA and that needs to be considered in any system that is used. Rich said that having legal advice on how coordination can be accomplished is needed. Taili said that having multiple agencies that have different applications can be condensed. This can help as different organizations apply for funding. He said it is important that the needs of the different agencies should be met based on the work that they do.

- iii. Are the ATIs we use effective and cost effective? Rich said this would require looking at a lot of budgets. He asked the group what they thought the most effective ATIs are. Judy said that LEAD is going well. She said it is pre-arrest intensive case management and that leads to cost effective work. Lance said that LEAD is effective in pre-arrest intervention. Wellness court is successful for post arrest. He said that College Initiative Upstate also has a significant impact on post arrest numbers. Rich said that the programs with the most intensive contact seem to be the most effective. Dave stated that all the programs are effective because they all meet a need.

- d. **Long Term Inmate Report- Matt Van Houten & Lance Salisbury:** There are currently 7 people listed on the long-term inmate report. Matt reported that

one individual has been sentenced and removed from the list. There are one or two individuals waiting for a trial that is scheduled. All other cases have been resolved. Two individuals are still waiting for their final court date and psychiatric resolutions.

Taili asked what the current numbers are for inmates. Matt said 64 in jail and 8 people boarded out. Matt said the increase is from drug and gun arrests over the weekend. Rich said the jail statistics are on the Sheriff's Department website.

Dave asked if the 2022 jail report can be added to the agenda for the next meeting. Judy asked about the number of women in the jail. Matt said that the number of women has gone up. This is due to door-to-door transfers that left care, and they are in jail because they keep leaving treatment. Judy asked if people that don't complete the door-to-door program are tracked in any way, specifically the reason the person did not complete a program. Matt said it is not, but it is possible to track that. Dave agreed that having that information can help to provide better options and care for people. He said that knowing the best resources and sharing that information can contribute to a higher success rate for recovery. Pete said that coordination is disjointed and that there can be more success if NYS OASAS and OMH merge, it has been sponsored by the Assembly and the Senate. He asked Judy to help push that merger forward.

- 5. Adjournment- Bridgette** adjourned the meeting at 1:15 pm. The next meeting is on October 25, 2023.