

Town of East Haven, CT
East Haven Counseling & Community Services Commission
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES– 7:00 p.m.
March 24, 2015 @ 7 p.m.
595 Thompson Avenue, East Haven, CT 06512

The East Haven Counseling & Community Services held a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, March 24, 2015 at 7:00 P.M - 595 Thompson Avenue, East Haven, CT 06512.

Chairman Matt Abbott called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

1. Roll Call

C.C.S. Chairman, Mr. Matt Abbott, Ms. Samantha Batson, Ms. Arlene Hackbarth and Ms. Sandra Enders. Also in attendance was Ms. Beth Trotta, LCSW, BH Care Director

2. To consider and approve minutes from February 24, 2015 meeting.

Sandra Enders made a motion to approve the minutes. Samantha Batson seconds. All in Favor. Motion Carried.

3. Ms. Beth Trotta, Program Manager to update commission on current clinic situation.

Ms. Beth Trotta states that Charlie Schetlin who was our clinician here for 18 years retired on March 6th. We are recruiting but know that they will be a BH Care employee not a Town employee. We have lost 5 people this year and are interviewing and hopeful we can begin making offers by the beginning of next week to those we are interviewing. The electronic health record system is going very well; the clinicians are getting the hang of it.

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February was a short month with not many requested services as well as snow days. We had 16 request services, of that we had another 15 non-eligible/not appropriate/no response. Our orientation 5 people did not show up for orientation and 1 did not show up for intake. Admissions we had 2 DMAS admissions, 6 DMAS Discharges, 9 Non-DMAS admissions, and 7 Non-DMAS discharges. For a Clinic total of 11 admissions and 13 Discharges. Our total active caseload is 160, out of that 86 are DMAS and 74 are Non-DMAS. Sandra asks what makes a client DMAS – Beth states a client that is DMAS – they are clients with chronic mental illness, either at risk or had hospitalization and most of the time are on state. Beth states we had very little involvement with the Department of Education this month and in-kind services we only .5 hrs. I do know in March there has been more activity with Department of Education.

I do want to mention the State budget for Mental Health. There has been a big cut in services in the governors' budget. I would like to make a request if anyone would like to send your legislators a note requesting that there be no cut. Worst case scenario for BH Care are looking to lay-off 40 people due to budget cuts and a lot of clients are going to be affected. The projected cut is 2.5 million dollars. Matt asks when it snows does the Counseling Center close? Beth states that if the mayor says that the town offices are closed to the public, staff has the choice of taking sick, vacation time or staying home. The reality is if clients are on the books then we are here, but 9 times out of 10 the client cannot get here but we are here.

Regarding the cut – Beth states that DMAS give BH Care \$80,000 for this clinic that is the money that could be cut, all or a portion. At that point we will have to look at the budget and see what we are going to do.

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4. Commission Comments.

None

5. Public Comment.

None

6. Discuss and approve any other matters that may come before the commission.

None

7. Adjournment.

Ms. Samantha Batson made a motion to adjourn at 7:33 p.m. Ms. Sandra Enders seconds. All in Favor.

EHCC COMMISSION MEETINGS ARE USUALLY ON THE 4th TUESDAY OF THE MONTH. NEXT MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR April 28, 2015

Temple Smith
East Haven Counseling & Community Services Commission Clerk