

QUARTERLY LYCOMING-CLINTON HEALTHCHOICES REINVESTMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

NOVEMBER 26, 2019

ATTENDANCE:

Jacque Miller – HC Director; Keith Wagner - Joinder Executive Director; Deanna Kimble – HC Quality/Clinical Manager; Elena Farr – HC Fiscal Officer; Shea Madden, Executive Director and Katie Hugo, Staff - West Branch Drug and Alcohol Abuse Commission; Carole Gilberti – Director and Tracy Carney - Senior Recovery & Resiliency Specialist - Community Care Behavioral Health Organization; Cathy Bennett, Joinder Administrative Assistant (present for minutes); and Dawn W.; Sue Ann B; Calvin S. and Teresa B – Consumer representatives.

OVERVIEW OF REINVESTMENT COMMITTEE OBJECTIVES:

Jacque Miller welcomed the group present and thanked the community representatives who were in attendance for today’s meeting. She distributed the agenda and a summary sheet entitled **“HealthChoices Reinvestment” (Attachment A)**. As there were consumer representatives present, she spent some time in providing them with an overview of what reinvestment funds are and how they become available, as well as the allowable and unallowable uses for these funds. She explained that an important part of today’s meeting was to obtain their thoughts on how to improve mental health and substance abuse services within our community.

PRESENTATION ON SUPPORTIVE HOUSING FUNDS AND SAFE AND HEALTHY HOME FUNDS:

Deanna Kimble provided an overview of two programs operated by the Lycoming-Clinton MH/ID Program and West Branch D&A that have been in place since February of 2019 through the use of reinvestment funds. She noted that the Supportive Housing program has assisted 50 individuals with rent or security deposit funding to help secure safe, affordable, permanent housing in Lycoming and Clinton Counties. The Safe and Healthy Homes program has assisted 16 individuals by providing funding to eliminate unsafe and unhealthy conditions in their home such as mold, bed bugs, clean up from hoarding, etc. **(Attachment B)**

UPDATE ON STIPEND FOR MEMBERS WHO PARTICIPATE IN THE HC REINVESTMENT COMMITTEE:

Jacque Miller distributed a copy of the revised document which that was prepared for distribution to encourage community care members or their family to attend the Reinvestment Committee meetings and share their thoughts on how to improve mental health and substance abuse services in the community. There is a stipend of \$40.00 for attending these meetings. **(Attachment C)**

INFORMATION UPDATE PROVIDED BY JOINDER HEALTHCHOICES STAFF:

Jacque Miller distributed documents entitled **“Reinvestment Funds History,”**

“Reinvestment Summary,” and a spreadsheet (Attachments D, E, F). She noted that approximately \$1,759,752 in reinvestment funds have been spent on programs since 2008 and these documents provide a summary of these programs and the costs applied toward each one. She added that there are two programs currently being funded by reinvestment

funds: Diakon’s Respite Services program and the Supportive Housing/Safe and Healthy Homes program operated by Lycoming-Clinton MH/ID and West Branch D&A. She noted that approximately \$172,000 in funds remain for use by both of these programs. Ms. Miller distributed a summary sheet entitled **“Reinvestment Update” (Attachment G)** which provided an overview of services provided by these programs between 7/1/19 and 9/30/19. She noted that currently there is an additional \$411,117 in unallocated funds that are ready for reinvestment for applicable mental health or drug and alcohol services in Lycoming and/or Clinton Counties and that this Reinvestment Committee was present to continue discussions on the potential use of these funds.

UPDATE FROM KATIE HUGO – WEST BRANCH D&A:

Katie Hugo noted that there are 18 people on the wait list for Saving Grace and there are 8 men on the wait list at the ARW Shelter. She noted that the “Warming Center” at First Church is scheduled to open on 1/6/20 through 3/14/20 from 9 PM to 7 AM for individuals in need of a place to shelter overnight. She added that Family Promise is full with 9 people on the wait list and Wise Options, who shelter women and children, is currently full.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR USE OF FUTURE REINVESTMENT FUNDS:

Jacque Miller distributed a summary sheet entitled **“Recent Stakeholder and Committee Recommendations” (Attachment H)** which summarized previous suggestions for use of reinvestment funds. She noted that these ideas were being considered and asked if the present group had any additional ideas or suggestions they would like to present.

Calvin S. asked if funding could be used to create after school programs and activities for young people as they spend too much time just hanging around and getting into trouble. He also noted that it is very difficult to go through the process of applying for social security disability and wondered if this system could be streamlined to assist people.

Sue Ann B. expressed her concern that many programs that are in place are not helping the needy and that oftentimes if you receive services once, you are no longer eligible to receive any additional services. She felt that our elderly, in particular, are not receiving the services and assistance they need and wondered what could be done to help them. She said they oftentimes go to churches and other facilities for assistance and are turned away. She added that hygiene is an important concern and that the boxes that have been set up to contain these products are oftentimes empty.

Jacque Miller thanked the community participants for their input and added that their information/concerns would be added to the list that is being compiled for consideration of the use of reinvestment funds. She encouraged the community members present to continue attending these meetings as their voices were important to be heard.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting date for the Reinvestment Committee was set for Tuesday, February 25, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. at the Sharwell Building.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jacqueline Miller
HealthChoices Director