

**SCA ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
JULY 22, 2019**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Ken Ralph  
Ken Marzinko  
Brian Frey  
Brian Klugh  
Jean Bickmire

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Rick Kastner  
Becky Sayeg  
Cecilia Ebersole

**GUESTS:**

Sandy and Melinda from the RASE Project

**A. Welcome and Introductions**

Rick welcomed the participants and had everyone introduce themselves.

**B. Minutes**

The minutes of the May 20, 2019 were approved as written. The last SCA Board Meeting was held at LACASA Halfway House. Rick stated that LACASA had received a \$250,000 grant from HealthChoices for the purchase and structural upgrades to the property. They received another \$100,000 matching grant for their rehab from the D & A Commission.

**C. Marcia Musser's Retirement**

Rick announced that Marcia has officially retired after 34 years of service. Marcia originally started as a full-time employee, retired, then returned as a part time employee. Marcia's duties have been distributed to existing staff members. Rick plans to address the Salary Board of Lancaster County for the need of a full-time administrative assistant.

**D. Appendix A, FY 2019-2020 Contracts**

Rick highlighted the changes to the 2019-2020 Contracts for Treatment Providers. Appendix A provides a work statement for the D & A Commission and how it works with treatment providers. Rick noted that for the new contract there has been an increase in the rates of reimbursement: Page 8, Individual therapy session was increased from \$64.00 to \$68.00 an hour; Group therapy session was increased from \$26.00 to \$28.00 an hour; Assessment was increased from \$60.00 to \$76.00 an hour due to the cumbersome paperwork involved, capped to three hours; Page 9, for family member sessions (even if a client is not involved) was increased from \$64.00 to \$68.00 an hour, capped at five hours; Page 10, provides higher rates for therapists with a M.A. degree or higher and those therapists who have experience working with adolescents. These rate increases have been approved by the County Commissioners.

### **E. Narcan**

Ken Ralph inquired about Narcan. Rick stated the LGH/Penn Medicine has a Federal grant to dispense Narcan. This grant flows through the D & A Commission. The District Attorney's office has a State grant through PCCD for Narcan.

### **F. State Budget**

Rick noted that the State Budget has been approved on time, and the D & A field did receive the same funding as last year. The federal grant, CURES, has dried up; the federal grant, SORS, is scheduled to end in one to two years. Rick expressed concern regarding the possible reduction in positions and services, if the newer opioid grants dry up.

### **G. HealthChoices Project**

Rick announced that the HealthChoices Project ended June 30, 2019, and there is a \$5million deficit for the Five-County Collaborative. Providers have one to two months to submit their invoices. New rates were given to the Cap Five, of an 8.8% increase equaling \$19 million. Rick expects there will be re-investment dollars in a year. From the Five-County Collaborative, 208,000 people receive Medicaid; for Lancaster County, the number of people is 83,000.

### **H. Drug & Alcohol Case Management**

Rick announced that the D & A Commission has a \$500,000 grant from DDAP to hire one CM for each outpatient treatment provider. The CM assists clients with housing, employment, transportation, etc. Rick will be asking the State for more funding, to hire more CMs. His original request was for one million dollars.

### **I. Community Needs**

Jean had inquired if the D & A Commission does any outreach to the community as to needs when federal grants are to be renewed. Rick responded that programs such as the RASE Project and Compass Mark do much advocacy and education to elected officials. Rick also stated that there has been a decrease in overdose deaths: nationally, rates have reduced from 70,000 deaths to 69,000 deaths. For Lancaster, overdose deaths decreased from 168 to 105. Rick also mentioned that there has been an increase in the use of methamphetamine and stimulant use, causing additional problems with clients exhibiting psychotic episodes.

### **J. RASE Project**

Sandy and Melinda provided an overview of the RASE Project and the programs they are involved in. The RASE Project is located at 131 E. Orange Street, Lancaster: first floor is the drop-in area, where people have access to media, computer labs, and the recovery center; second floor is administrative offices; and third floor is the Men's recovery house. Sandy noted that the RASE Project receives a number of walk-ins who are interested in treatment placement for detox. The Door to Door Program focuses on people being released from prison directly to

treatment. The Recovery Specialist conducts Medicaid intakes while the person is incarcerated, obtains a bed date, and transports the person directly to the treatment center. Additionally, Medicaid is activated upon a person's release. Rick noted that the activation upon release has been a big savings. Previously, the SCA had to pay for inpatient treatment until Medicaid became activated. Sandy added that the RASE Project sponsors six recovery-related events per year – the goal is to make recovery fun. The Warm Handoff Program: when EMS respond to an OD, the RASE Project is contacted to convince the person to go into treatment and does follow up. Sandy stated that 25 to 30% of these calls go to treatment. Melinda from the RASE Project works with Children and Youth cases. When a woman tests positive on a prenatal exam or a woman tests positive who has prior record with Children and Youth, Melinda will accompany the Children and Youth Case Worker to the client's home. Melinda stated that the number of Case Workers she works with has increased from two to six.

### **K. Community Partnerships**

Rick stated that the D & A Commission has had a partnership with the RASE Project for eight years, and the 521 Club for three years. The Commission provided the 521 Club resources to upgrade their building and parking lot. Rick also mentioned a possible partnership with the DSAA (Donegal Substance Abuse Alliance) in Mount Joy, to provide a drop-in center.

### **L. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:08 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Cecilia M. Ebersole  
Secretary

**Next Meeting: Monday, September 23, 2019, possibly at Compass Mark.**