Minutes for 3rd meeting for Behavior Health and Treatment and Recovery Committee

February 14, 2022 10:00 a.m.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: York County D.A. Kathy Slattery, Kennebunk Police Chief Robert MacKenzie, Y.C. Fire Chief’s Association Member Matt Leach, York County Sheriff William King, York County Commissioner Richard Clark, Tori Smith from Milestone Recovery, York County Facilities Director Rick deRochemont, York County Manager Greg Zinser, YCAC Executive Director Barbara Crider, York Housing Authority Exec. Director, Diane Gerry, Jennifer Ouellette, York County Clinician and CDC Liaison Adam Hartwig (via ZOOM).

Excused: York County Deputy Manager Linda Corliss

**1. WELCOME**

County Manager Greg Zinser introduced new committee member, Torie Smith from Milestone Recovery.

2. **REVIEW OF DRAFT MINUTES** **OF JANUARY 10, 2022**

County Manager Zinser explained that the minutes will be placed onto our ARPA section of the county’s website and asked if everyone had reviewed and requested a motion be made. It was

decided that the minutes will be on next agenda for approval.

3. **REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER LEVELS OF CARE DRAFT**

County Manager Zinser recapped the last meeting and spoke about the draft that Jen (Ouellette) has prepared.

York County Clinician Jennifer Ouellette explained the document that she prepared with costs associated with each type of care (attached as record of minutes). She explained that the Committee would have to prioritize what they want to do initially. Ms. Ouellette added that this document purely depicts what the service is and the reimbursement. Staffing costs, food and office supplies, etc. are not included in this document.

We are looking at short term stay (45 day stay), half- way house (LW-up to 6 months), long term recovery (270 days) and then de-tox. Then, one would go to transitional recovery housing along with outpatient services.

Clinician Jen Ouellette explained there would need to also be case management medically assisted treatment, as well as medical management for mental health. The bulk of the individuals have co-occurring conditions. This is a separate service that could be offered as well.

County Manager Zinser asked if we could have recovery coaches as well that we could maybe work into police and fire departments. We really need to focus on the residential aspects, first, though.

Another important need are general observation beds for those presenting to a police officer or fire department who need help and have no where to go.

County Manager Zinser continued that there would also need to be model changes at Layman Way. The County currently raises $1 million for the program. With these funds and then Maine Care money, we can probably look to do some, if not all, of what we are proposing.

Jen Ouellette explained that the substance abuse outpatient program can start quickly and there is very little overhead. She added that she thinks about in what fashion are we going to add services.

Sheriff King explained that the reason he wanted a recovery coach at the jail is that he wanted to get the family’s support. It is a six-month program so they need their families behind them for support.

Clinician Jen Ouellette explained that this information will be in the actual brochures and is always recommended as well as peer support. She added that this is not a reimbursable expense but that absolutely, it has to be part.

County Manager Zinser comments that District Attorney Slattery has approached him about social workers, etc.

D.A. Slattery stated that they work in a vacuum. We tell people to go talk to so and so and they will set you up in a program. This doesn’t happen and we wait forever. It would be nice to have one person or program to just refer them to.

York County Clinician Jen Ouellette replied that the substance abuse outpatient program can do that. It can simply be an assessment.

YCCAC Executive Director Barbara Crider asked who is running Layman Way now?

County Manager Zinser explained that it is operated by the Shelter Programs now. Overall, we are looking to have it work a different way . It is time at this point to take a review of it. It is running great, continued the County Manager but, it is time to look at it and see if there is a different way to operate it. If we can reallocate the money for Layman Way and put it into this, we can run a lot of programs. We need to keep Layman Way going as it is a valuable program, stated County Manager Zinser.

He continued that he is learning about SAMSA grants with Jen (Ouellette). The County Manager explained that we really need to understand them and they require multiple people managing finance.

Clinician Jen Ouellette responded that she has started a document titled, “Things to Know when you accept MAINECARE”.

County Manager Zinser replied that he thinks we will need to meet with some of the State folks.

York County Fire Chief’s Association member, Matt Leach asked are we looking at money that we would receive for a facility and then figuring out what our goal is.

The County Manager replied, we can’t design a facility until we know what’s going in it.

Matt Leach asked and is the goal to limit the tax impact on the County as the Commissioner said?

County Manager Zinser replied that his goal is to be finding all of the various revenue sources.

The jail is also doing so much. Can this work at the jail, too?, he asked.

Commissioner Clark stated that York County received $40+ million in ARPA money. He added that he has never seen this kind of money in government and that he doesn’t expect we will ever see it again. He continued that he and the rest of the Commissioners understand this is one time money. The county budget will this year be around $21 million, stated Commissioner Clark. We don’t want to add to it. I don’t see $1 million increase in substance abuse treatment being approved.

Commissioner Clark continued that one of the arguments for Layman Way was that a number of people would be in jail and by putting them in Layman Way we were saving money. This is not true for everybody. The cost to families and family members, is incalculable. That being said it is still a tough sell to the taxpayer.

Commissioner Clark stated that it was our hope for this (ARPA money) to help with certain projects and that they would carry the ball after that.

This is going to cost the county more on an annual basis then it does. We will be receiving some money from the OPIOD settlement but, that is over an 18 year period.

County Manger Greg Zinser stated that he feels the Commissioners are fully behind bricks and mortar . Then we need to come up with what programs will work.

Kennebunk Police Chief Mackenzie asked if there was any interest in contracting some of the programs out?

The County Manager replied that it is something we can look at but then we lose control of the program. We have the capability to fill that gap here in the county. We could be looking at some contract services.

York County Clinician Jen Ouellette stated that she had been thinking about training space as well. She suggested that maybe the county could offer training for our people as well and make some money there.

Matt Leach added workforce Development stuff, also. County Manager Zinser agreed and informed all that they have been working with York County Community College in regards to the training center.

YCCAC Executive Director Barbara Crider commented that using Layman Way as the foundation and building out from there would make sense. We should think collectively about the rare opportunity to invest in bricks and mortar. Being prudent and leveraging that could be helpful.

County Manager Zinser informed all that we are looking at that for the Regional Training Center. By working with York County Community College, we are opening the doors to some other big time funders such as the Alfond Center. I can also ask them to help us with this, stated the County Manager.

Sheriff King commented that Layman Way is the aircraft carrier and everything else an offshoot of that. He added, wouldn’t it be nice if the State would fund a diversion program?

Torie Smith from Milestone Recovery suggested that by replacing CNAs with detox attendants, one can save money. Peer support persons can replace counselors. We can do follow up care and set up programs.

Jen Ouellette agreed that there are definitely places where peer support can be beneficial. You have to be clear what are licensed services, she clarified.

York County Fire Chief Association member Matt Leach stated that it is obvious to him that the Committee needs to figure out how resources can be brought in and what we can take out so we can move on.

County Manager Zinser replied that he can start building an 85% budget to get the reality of where are we going. He added that he will need Jen and Diane’s help with this. County Manager Zinser stated that he would like to be in the design phase in April or May.

4. **NEXT STEPS**

County Manager Zinser stated that for the next meeting we should begin to figure out what the five wings (detox, short term, long term, detox and outpatient) would contain. Perhaps we can have this in more of a budget format where we see the costs of running the program and ideas on building requirements. We can meet in March and have some general agreement on that. Then we can have the architect start doing the mark up for April and start designing.

Commissioner Clark stated that, at some point, relatively soon, we need to pick some numbers of how many people we are going to be serving.

York County Clinician Jen Ouellette explained that when dealing with residential living, the count is done by the bed day not the amount of people.

County Manager Zinser stated that in his conversations with Southern Maine Healthcare, they will be sending people as well as York Hospital.

5. **SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING**

It was decided that the next meeting will take place on March 28th at 10:30 a.m. in the Commissioners’ meeting room at the York County Government Building.

6. **ADJOURN**

Meeting was adjourned.