**Safe Haven Advisory Board Meeting**

December 12, 2016, 11:00AM

Safe Haven Advisory Board members in attendance: Patti Ellish, Major Wharton Muller, Dr. Charles Preston, Kelly Rabalais, Dennis Glass, Colin Sims, Diane Dicke and Jan Robert

Other members of the behavioral health community and the general public attended.

Kelly Rabalais called the meeting of the Safe Haven Advisory Board to order at 11:00AM. A quorum of the Advisory Board was established.

The minutes from the September 12, 2016 meeting were presented. Wharton Muller moved for approval, seconded by Dr. Preston, with all voting in favor.

Kelly Rabalais introduced the Safe Haven Advisory Board bylaws. The board decided to defer approval until the next quarterly meeting in March so that they could take some time to review the proposed documents. At that time the board will also select a Chairperson and a Secretary by majority vote of the board membership.

**Safe Haven Committee Reports:**

**Healthcare Committee**: Dr. Charles Preston reported that the Safe Haven Healthcare Committee has held 2 meetings, one in September and one in December. Licensing issues for the Safe Haven (SH) components have been recently addressed with the parish architect for Safe Haven.

The focus on Safe Haven is on the scope of care. Dr. Preston stressed the need for all to understand that Safe Haven (SH) is a voluntary social model and not for patients that have been PEC’d or CEC’d. The SH programs will focus initially on the adult population only. No pediatric services will be offered until a later phase of development.

There will be no 24-hour access to psychiatry or nurses and no chemical or physical restraints. Members recommended that someone with prescribing authority be available to patients in sobering and crisis respite. EMS will be recommended to staff the facility.

Evaluation and admission criteria need to be developed. Once developed, ED staff, first responders, law enforcement and EMS, as well as general public need to be educated.

The Committee recently reviewed and discussed the Houston Sobering Center model.

Take aways from the Houston model: Questions to be answered:

1. Referrals to the center: What percentage comes from ED’s, law enforcement, etc.
2. Transportation: How do patients arrive? Is there transportation available upon discharge? Do they use Medicaid vouchers?
3. Do they have examples of screening forms, registration process, etc. How do they document patient visits and collect data?

Transportation to site: Rob Reardon from the Bridge program visited Safe Haven last week. We discussed policy changes to mental health legislation that would allow EMS to transport and drop off patients at a site other than the ED, such as Safe Haven. We will be collaborating with Bridge to support these changes.

The Committee will work with the protocols developed by Dr. Muntan and Dr. DeSalvo for medical clearance. The committee will also establish normal vitals and other criteria, identify who will do clearance, and where medical clearance will take place.

James Comeaux, COO, Access Health La, recently presented an overview of their services in the region as well as resources that could be provided by an FQHC. Access Health has outpatient clinics in 9 parishes offering an array of primary care and behavioral health services. They serve 43,000 patients annually. The St Tammany Community Health Center in Slidell currently has the highest demand in the system. Discussions on how an FQHC could be strategically placed on the campus and integrated into the proposed Safe Haven system will continue as the committee develops the model for these co-located services. They will be important partners and part of the social support model to assist with de-escalation, talk therapy and provide services of Psych NP and/or psychiatry.

**Training and Education:**

Wharton Muller reported that the Sheriff has selected 4 deputies to serve on the CIT.

The goal is for these officers to travel to San Antonio to participate in Crisis Intervention Training in January 2017. The STPSO did not receive funding support to cover expenses to travel to San Antonio for the one week CIT training. Kathy Stuart, from Senator Cassidy’s office and Jan Robert will look for other funding options.

Angie Trail in the STP Government Grants Department will be the contact for Safe Haven.

NAMI and 911 are collaborating on development of a crisis-training curriculum for 911 dispatch. The goal is to complete and to begin training dispatchers in January 2017.

Nick Richard reported that they have begun testing the NAMI Mental Health App with the STP Coroner’s Office and the STPSO. The app should be up and running by early 2017.

NAMI St Tammany plans to schedule additional MHFA training classes in the community in 2017.

**Jail Diversion:**

Diane Dicke presented a report on behalf of Judge Peter Garcia, Chair of the Jail Diversion Committee**.**

The Criminal Justice system is the largest referral to the mental health and substance abuse system.

The Committee has developed a Sequential Intercept Model that illustrates points of contact within the system where individuals can be diverted to options other than jail and the court system.

It will be used to identify points for pre-trial and post conviction.

The CJCC, led by Judge Gardner has developed a risk assessment tool for the courts and screening tool for mental health to use at the jail for medical intake.

Probation holds and attachments are slowing down the system for many with mental illness and substance use disorders. The judges are currently reviewing the existing process and will make changes as needed.

The post conviction model involves probation and parole. Judge Garcia is working with P and P to identify individuals that cycle through the system and don’t recidivate. A system for direct referral by P and P to Safe Haven will be developed.

Jan Robert reported on the United Way grant received by VIA Link 211 to provide enhanced crisis line, crisis text and crisis chat services on the northshore. It is anticipated that these services will roll out in February 2017.

Kathy Stuart from Senator Cassidy’s office reported on the recent passage of the Mental Health Crisis Reform Act by the Senate.

This Act will provide funding opportunities in the future for jail diversion, CIT training for law enforcement, etc.

Judge Garcia has been travelling in the area and presenting the Safe Haven model with Kelly Rabalais and Nick Richard. The Safe Haven leadership team is available to speak to organizations, boards, and any groups that may be interested in learning more. Tours of Safe Haven are also available and are usually scheduled on Friday afternoons at 2. Please contact Kelly Rabalais’ office for more information.

**Finance and Administration:**

Kelly Rabalais reported on the recent tours of the Safe Haven campus by Councilwoman Cantrell from the City of New Orleans, Rob Reardon from the Bridge Project in Baton Rouge and Governor John Bel Edwards.

The Legislative Auditor met with selected members of the Safe Haven board and committees. The auditors are preparing a review for LA OBH.

STP Government hired an architect, Verges Rome, for the Safe Haven renovation. The demo work will commence shortly and plans will be developed for renovation of the facility by early 2017.

Other Business:

Patti Ellish raised the issue of communication with SH Advisory Board members. She recommended posting the committee meeting minutes as well as Advisory Board meeting minutes on the SH website. In addition, a calendar should be added with updates of all committee meetings and quarterly advisory board meetings. Kelly and Jan will meet with STP Communications Director, Ronnie Simpson so we can begin providing information to the board and the public via the SH website.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40.