

Allegan County Community Mental Health Services Board
3283 122nd Avenue, Allegan, MI 49010
269-673-3384

MINUTES
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Friday, January 15, 2021 by Zoom
1:00-2:30

1. Meeting was convened via Zoom technology by Chair DeYoung at 1:02 p.m. Present were Members Kelsey, Storey, Belco (1:10pm), Executive Director Witte; and guests State Rep. Whiteford; and her aide, Adam Erber.
2. **Whiteford Discussion**
 - a. Witte asked for Whiteford's priorities for the legislative session. She said her bill to provide a hotline for finding mental health hospital beds was being set up and should be operational statewide in June. Providing crisis stabilization units (CSU) is another measure she has promoted. At present, individuals in crisis go to an emergency room and hopefully get admitted to psych hospital. CSU's are designed as an intermediate step and would enable those seeking mental health assistance to obtain professional help and get determination if they need to be in a psych hospital. In Kalamazoo, the CMH uses a part of the hospital for a CSU. Could be held 72 hours in CSU. Regulations for operating them have been approved.
 - b. In the future, Rep. Whiteford has proposed \$7 million for PRTF units for adult and pediatrics psychological unit. Wants money to follow the patient wherever they go, not necessarily to CMH organizations. Discussion followed between Whiteford and Witte on CCHB: promoting integrated care for the lifespan of those with persistent mental health issues.
 - c. DeYoung: crisis intervention team require law enforcement who need training on mental health issues. Whiteford says Sheriff Baker is working on getting training for his staff. Suggests "circling back" with Baker to see if he has found money for the training. Witte has discussed the matter with the Allegan PD Chief, Gibson, on how to use the training to help.
 - d. Witte raised the issue of the predicted coming calamity of MH needs following the Covid contagion. Need to step up our suicide prevention efforts. Whiteford cites her crisis line as a step in providing that answer and said she is working on a school-based clinic at the ISD.
 - e. The hour-long discussion ended with Whiteford offering to meet again as need arises.
3. **OTHER BUSINESS**
 - a. Contract with LRE is still being worked. Expect it will be finalized soon.
 - b. COVID Vaccine Distribution – ACCMHS is offering to help out Allegan Public Health and Emergency Management. Sign up with the county health department is underway.
 - c. Agency branding survey underway. Branding initiative is preliminary to starting a fund raising drive to supplement the USDA-RD loan approved in late December for the rehab of the Shopko building.
 - d. DeYoung reminded board members whose terms are expiring to transmit their applications for to the county administration office (Becky Blaine).
 - e. Storey requested a thank you letter be sent to USDA-Rural Development State Director Jason Allen for his assistance in obtaining loan approval.

Meeting adjourned at 2:27pm

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Storey, Secretary