

**OPIOID ADDICTION COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

**THURSDAY, APRIL 18, 2019
2:15 P.M.**

PRESENT: Rob Sassi, Chairman,
Kevin W. Hines, Kevindaryan Lujan, Darcie Miller

ALSO

PRESENT: L. Stephen Brescia, Chairman
Antoinette Reed, Legislative Counsel
Katariina Hoaas, Chief Clinical Officer, Access
Patricia Tuber, Accute Behavioral Health Regional Director, Access

Mr. Sassi called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m. and asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. All committee members were present with the exception of Ms. Sutherland who was absent.

Ms. Hoaas stated that Access is a large provider in Orange County for behavioral help and family services. They partner with the county and independent living and recently opened up a crisis call center on April 1st. Earlier this year they were awarded a grant and they plan to use the grant money to open two integrated Behavioral Health Urgent Care Centers. They welcome walk-ins with no referral needed. They will be located in Middletown and Newburgh and the hours of operation will be 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Monday through Friday and Saturday and Sunday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Ms. Hoaas provided a handout (see original minutes) and described the services they provide to individuals and families, and the various locations where services are provided. She explained the various locations that services are provided. She explained the difference between a Behavioral Health Urgent Care and a traditional Urgent Care. There are licensed therapists, registered nurses, care managers, psychiatrists, nutritionist, peers and others that are part of the interdisciplinary team.

Mr. Lujan asked what type of peer support is offered.

Ms. Tuber stated that they hired three full time New York State specialists for peer support that also assist with detox. Some of these people have life experience, shared experience and when you have a personal connection with the issues makes it more personal.

Ms. Hoaas described the various services offered at Access which is triage and assessment, rapid access to medication assisted treatment for opioid and alcohol use, customized care and referrals and a warm hand-off for longer-term care at the person's provider of choice. They want their centers to be inviting to people. The model is to make it a welcoming center so people feel comfortable walking through the doors.

Mr. Sassi asked how people will find out that there is help available through Access.

Ms. Hoaas stated that they have someone doing marketing for them

Ms. Tuber added that they have a radio slot that has been pre-recorded which will air.

Mr. Lujan asked if the staff will be bilingual.

Ms. Hoaas stated that they have been trying to hire bilingual staff, but have not been very successful. They do have some staff that can step in and come in to help. They also have a phone service that is available on demand.

Ms. Tuber mentioned that they are still trying to recruit bilingual staff but they need bilingual people to apply which is the problem.

Ms. Hoaas mentioned that they have meetings planned with three school districts, Middletown, Newburgh and Monroe Woodbury to establish a memorandum of agreement to serve children that they have concerns about. They are scheduled to meet on May 15th and plan to work closely with the schools to provide support when needed.

On the motion of Mr. Hines, seconded by Mr. Lujan, the meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.