

Cayuga County Community Services Board

Laurie Piccolo, Chair

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Alcohol & Substance Abuse Subcommittee

January 5, 2022

Members Present: Shari Weiss, Chair; Sarah Dawson; Timothy Donovan; Gary Mann; JoLynn Mulholland; Laurie Piccolo; Brian Schenck
Guests Present: Kristen Foster; Jason “Wally” Meyers; Rick Hansinger; Beth Hurny-Fricano; Ashley Short; Lisa Forshee
Staff: Ray Bizzari, CCCMHC

I. CALL TO ORDER & INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Shari Weiss called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m. Chair Weiss welcomed the Subcommittee and introductions were made. Quorum was present.

II. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD – None this month.

III. REVIEW OF MINUTES

Members were emailed a *draft* of the November 3, 2021 minutes. On a motion by Gary Mann, seconded by Timothy Donovan, the November 3, 2021 minutes were approved. Motion carried.

IV. AGENCY REPORT Q & A

Reports were provided prior to the meeting.

- Shari Weiss noted that Unity House received their re-certification for both the Community Residence and Certified Supportive Living Programs.
- Rick Hansinger announced Ashley Short as the new Executive Director for Nick’s Ride. Shari thanked Rick for his contributions.

V. DIRECTOR’S REPORT

- Ray Bizzari, updated on the following:
 - ❖ This will be his last meeting as he will be retiring. Thanked the committee for the work they have accomplished over the years. Also noted there is more work to do, especially due to COVID-19.
 - ❖ New reporting for the agencies for both mental health and substance abuse.
 - ❖ Prior approval has been signed for Farnham to open the OTP program.

Timothy Donovan and Shari Weiss acknowledged and thanked Ray for his work on this committee and within the community.

At this time Ray asked Jason “Wally” Meyers to provide an update on the HEALing Communities Study.

- Wally highlighted the following:
 - ❖ CCMHC is providing MOUD Treatment. Shelyagh Kennedy is working with these clients.
 - ❖ Narcan:
 - There are currently 119 boxes are being strategically placed throughout the community.
 - Updated on the outreach efforts by providing Narcan to individuals seeking help and forming a relationship with these individuals.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

- COVID-19 Update
 - ❖ Ray updated on the following:
 - The transmission rates in the County are high. There is a concern that people taking at-home tests who test positive are not following the quarantine guidelines.
 - DSS and CCMHC have a number of staff out due to testing positive or coming in close contact with someone who has tested positive. Many employees have the ability to work from home.

- Fifty percent of the business is happening face to face. Masks are being worn and social distancing is taking place. There are challenges with some clients using telehealth and losing some of their supports.
- The County is currently using the 10-day isolation period. OMH and OASAS issued guidance consistent with the CDC guidance, which is five days after symptoms disappear. Ray is trying to get clarification on the rules.
- ❖ Shari encouraged people to pay attention to the County website for guidance.
- ❖ Timothy updated that there are reports that the current masks are not as effective against this new strain of the virus.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- Local Services Plan
 - ❖ Ray updated on the following:
 - The goals of plan are worked all year long by establishing more opportunities for treatment for substance and opioid use disorder. The plan also supported the opening of the OTP and funding for the jail. The clinic continues to move towards an integrated treatment model. Also working with the emergency room with inductions and continuing to increase Mobile Crisis services. There needs to be a more comprehensive plan for prevention strategies. Beth Hurny-Fricano updated that she will be meeting with a CHAD board member to discuss this issue. JoLynn Mulholland advised that the DFCC is preparing to rewrite the 2022 application process.

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Timothy Donovan advised there is a coat drive at Sacred Heart Church on January 8th and 9th. Catholic Charities of the Finger Lakes will be responsible for distributing these coats. He will send Paula a flyer with this information. Timothy will be restarting his monthly Abuse and Addiction column in February.
- Gary Mann updated on the Point in Time Count. This Friday they will be discussing the ability to have volunteers as they have in the past. Gary, Nicole Gee, and Fred will be meeting to discuss the training schedule that will be held on January 26th at 6:00 p.m. Additional details to follow. If you have questions or would like to be involved, please send an email to Gary.
- Shari Weiss updated that the Cayuga Community Health Network has an outreach and advocacy position. If you have someone who is homeless or at risk of being homeless, you may contact Nicole Gee @ 315-252-4212 x101. Nicole can assist with referrals, filling out applications, and connecting with resources. In addition, they will be starting a new online diabetes prevention program in January. If you know anyone who is pre-diabetic, please contact Merlin Marrison. They will also be offering a program called *Eat Healthy be Active* for people with chronic health conditions. For anyone over the age of 60, they are partnered with the Office for the Aging to provide tablets so they may participate in the program. Shari will send Paula flyers for distribution.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:38 p.m. on a motion by Timothy Donovan and seconded by Gary Mann. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Paula M. Rubano, Senior Clerk
Cayuga County Mental Health Center