

Cayuga County Community Services Board

Laurie Piccolo, Chair

146 North Street, Auburn, NY 13021-1831
Phone: (315) 253-0341/Fax: (315) 253-1687

Community Services Board Minutes January 28, 2021

Members Present via 8x8 Video Conference: Theresa Humennyj, Vice Chair; Keith Batman; Elane Daly; Timothy Donovan; Camille Johnson; Rhoda Overstreet-Wilson; Jean Petrosino Winne; David Sealy; Sheriff Brian Schenck; Stephen Smith; Shari Weiss.

Members Excused: Laurie Piccolo, Chair; Abbas Ispahani, MD.

Staff/Guests Present via 8x8 Video Conference: Ray Bizzari, DCS, Jennifer Coughlin, Deputy Director, Monika Salvage, Program Manager and Jason Meyers, Technical Assistance Coordinator of the HEALing Communities Study, Mental Health Center (MHC).

I. ROLL CALL/CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Theresa Humennyj called the meeting to order at 12:04pm; Chair Laurie Piccolo is excused from today's meeting. Roll was called; quorum is present via 8x8 Video Conference Call.

II. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD – No public in attendance today.

III. REVIEW OF MINUTES

Draft December minutes were emailed to Board members. On a motion by Shari Weiss, seconded by Timothy Donovan, minutes of the December 17, 2020 meeting were approved as submitted. Motion carried.

IV. COMMUNICATIONS – None.

V. FINANCIAL REPORTS – None.

VI. REPORT FROM OFFICERS AND SUBCOMMITTEES

- A. **Mental Health Subcommittee** – Chair Theresa Humennyj reported; she stated that Timothy Donovan is promoting breaking down the stigma of mental health. She also mentioned that he was recognized by Unity House. It was also reported that Timothy Donovan writes articles for The Citizen. This week he did an article on Seasonal Affective Disorder. He has received much positive feedback. If you know someone suffering from this disorder, please share his article. It is very informative and comprehensive. Theresa praised him for his very helpful articles.
- B. **PWDD Subcommittee** – Chair Steve Smith reported. The Subcommittee discussed the community hab openings which occurred due to agency closure. The Subcommittee and service providers brainstormed to get people the services they need – it was a real team effort during the meeting. Agencies continue to deal with COVID.
- C. **Alcohol and Substance Abuse Subcommittee** – Chair Shari Weiss reported. Timothy Donovan announced that the support groups, NA, AA, Al-Anon, are now being held remotely. It was noted that it has been challenging during COVID for support systems. It was also announced that Friends Helping Friends of Cayuga County has collected over 70 winter coats that treatment providers can pick up for distribution; they are located at the Fingerlakes Mall.

Rhoda Overstreet-Wilson arrived at 12:20pm.

VII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Ray Bizzari reported; his written copy was mistakenly not distributed by undersigned. The MHC is applying for another System of Care grant. Ray explained the difference between the ACT Team and Mobile Crisis. The ACT (Assertive Community Treatment) Team is a team approach to the treatment of people with a mental illness; includes medication and individual therapy

along with support to help the people live within the community. People referred to the ACT team using have 10 to 15 contacts a month; don't do well with traditional treatment. He mentioned that SPOA (Single Point of Access) is the gatekeeper of the ACT Team. Oswego County is the ACT Team provider. The Mobile Crisis team responds to crises as they come up with the help of law enforcement. The County's COVID vaccine rollout is underway. DePaul continues to work on the housing project in Port Byron. They are creating affordable housing opportunities for people with Mental Health and Substance Abuse disabilities and the elderly.

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. **Nominating Committee Update** – Theresa Humennyj reported that we have 2 openings on MH Subcommittee and 2 openings on the CSB; PWDD and ASA Subcommittees are full.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. **MOUD (Medication for Opioid Use Disorder) Capacity** – Ray reported. The Director of Community Services oversees behavioral health services in the County; it's a big job. He is happy that Cayuga County received the HEALing Communities Study grant; it provides excellent staff and a good level of funding. The level of Substance Abuse Treatment in the County could be better. Substance abuse treatment providers are supposed to prescribe Buprenorphine to people who are addicted to opiates but don't. Ray talked about the different challenges with treatment providers not prescribing or inducting people addicted to opioids or who have barriers to their treatment. He talked about CHAD possibly working together with Farnham and different scenarios on how they can help each other so that clients get the services they need. OASAS (Office of Alcohol and Substance Abuse Services will be replacing deficit funding with purchasing bundles of services

Board members asked how they can help; Ray suggested talking about this more and coming up with suggestions.

B. **State Aid Allocations** – Ray reported on State Aid. He will come up with a written report to send to Board members to clarify what is happening with State Aid allocations. Some of the things discussed at today's meeting included the 20 percent withhold of State Aid and how he fully restored some of the agencies. In the Governor's current budget he is looking to reduce the 20 percent withhold of State Aid to a 5 percent cut.


Sheriff Schenck suggested a community-wide discussion regarding MOUD, specifically the use of Suboxone. There seems to be a disconnect in the community—some agree with Suboxone for all while others think it is not the right fit for some individuals.

X. **ANNOUNCEMENTS** – None today.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Timothy Donovan and seconded by Shari Weiss the meeting adjourned at 1:16. **The next scheduled meeting of the CSB is Thursday, February 25th at noon via 8x8 phone call.**

Respectfully submitted,



Liz Piwinski
CSB Secretary