

Cayuga County Community Services Board

Laurie Piccolo, Chair

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PEOPLE WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES SUBCOMMITTEE

June 10, 2021

Members Present: Stephen Smith (Chair), Shannon Abate, Katherine Dunchak, Lorie Fischer, Kimberly Granato, Andrea Hansen, Joan Meyers
Members Excused: Timothy Donovan
Members Absent: Elizabeth Signorelli
Staff/Guests Present: Shelley McLeod and Josh Overstreet, Prime Care Coordination; Denise Vreeland and Michele VanGiesen, Mozaic; Daniel Lesinski, Cayuga Centers; Theresa Sheldon, OPWDD; Becky Waldron, Cayuga Counseling; Jennifer Coughlin, CCCMHC; Dan Kelley, Onondaga Community Living; Vince Schmidt, OPWDD; James Breslin, Gavras Center, Shannon Coccimiglio, Unity House Employment Services; Joyce McGlynn, Lifeplan

- I. **ROLL CALL/CALL TO ORDER** – Called to order by Steve at 12:02pm.
- II. **PUBLIC TO BE HEARD** – James Breslin read a statement he wrote requesting representation from care coordination organizations at the PWDD Subcommittee meeting. This statement represents himself and the Gavras Center. It is provided in full as a supplement to the minutes.
- III. **REVIEW OF MINUTES** – Members were emailed a draft of the April 8, 2021 minutes. On a motion by Kimberly, seconded by Shannon, the minutes were approved as submitted. All in favor, motion carried.
- IV. **LOCAL SERVICES PLAN** – Putting the final touches on the LSP. The COVID survey from last year is mandatory, the typical LSP with goals and objectives is not, but proceeding with both. In the survey that was sent out, the biggest concern was housing. Discussion regarding additions to the LSP: housing, crisis services, workforce recruitment, employment/job opportunities, suicide prevention, telehealth expansion, and peer integration (NOTE: telehealth does not always meet the needs of the PWDD community, however). Becky and Andrea brought up a concern regarding autism assessment (there is nothing in the county). Jennifer will send the current draft out to everyone so people can take a closer look and provide more feedback if needed.
- V. **AGENCY REPORTS** – Agency reports were requested and sent prior to the meeting. Updated copies of the Agency Service Openings Chart were sent prior to the meeting.
 - **ARISE** – No representation.
 - **Cayuga Centers** – Looking for direct support professionals; not everyone who wants to return is able to because of staff shortages/hiring delays. Increase in referrals in just the last week or two. Normalcy is returning.
 - **Cayuga Counseling** – Training last month went really well (28 participants, 12 of which were families – most they've ever had). Currently running a social skills group for two kids that's also going well. Always looking for social skills group referrals. Becky took a new position at Cayuga Counseling but will continue to run the OPWDD contracts, at least for now. In-person groups are a possibility, but hybrid groups may be run as well.
 - **DDRO** – Nothing to report.
 - **Gavras Center** – Without walls program up to 36 active consumers. No staff or consumers have had any COVID-related issues. April 2021 was the first money-making month since

COVID began. Grand reopening for site-based DayHab is planned later this summer. In the process of developing a new reopening plan. Website will have an update on this reopening plan next week. Opening for a new OPWDD Coordinator will be posted next week; also hiring direct support professionals and nurses. Last month, submitted Integrative Supportive Housing \$1.3 million capital request for the Village Square Apartment project (42 apartments with 9 apartments for PWDD). Consumers are able to see their care managers again. Applied to expand daycare license to include another toddler room (capacity up to 30 toddlers). Scholarships available for free daycare services (M-F 7am to 6pm). New operating certificate for early intervention program. Requested from OMH that Gavras be designated as a school-based mental health provider. Gavras is no longer an affiliate of UCP.

- **Mozaic** – In process of hiring staff, trying to get as many people in person as they can for site-based DayHab. Still doing DayHab without walls. Spotlight Studios going to open up another art/dance/music class soon, Vacancies in residential: a few supervised apartments, one supportive apartment, traditional supervised IRA (very soon). Mozaic has an alliance with Challenge Industries in Tompkins County.
- **Onondaga Community Living** – Open for business.
- **Unity House** – Not discussed.

VI. DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Not discussed.

VII. OLD BUSINESS – Steve wants to wait to hold in-person meetings due to not enough people in general being vaccinated; there is also the possibility of another small surge. Long-term, meetings could sometimes be held in-person and sometimes remotely.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS – None discussed.

IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS – None discussed.

X. ADJOURNMENT – The meeting adjourned at 1:03pm on a motion by Andrea and seconded by Shannon. All in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Kelsey R. Marquart, Senior Typist



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Cayuga County PWDD meeting
June 10, 2021
Public to Be Heard Statement

The PWDD Committee plays an important role in our community. Local stakeholders give reports and updates regarding challenges, best practices and trends in their respective service areas helping to inform Cayuga County policy makers' decisions.

One group of important service providers are conspicuously absent from PWDD meetings – Care Coordination Organizations. I request that the local Care Coordination Organizations be invited to PWDD meetings and provide monthly reports just like volunteer agencies do.

Care Coordination Organizations receive OPWDD funding and OPWDD received a small budget increase for the 2021-22 fiscal year due primarily to increased funding for Care Coordination Organizations.

Care coordination is intended to **maximize the value of care being delivered** and ensure that the patient's needs and preferences are known and addressed. The goal is to provide safer and more effective care by sharing pertinent information among all of the providers involved with the patient. Care coordination plays an important role in improving health care outcomes for individuals with developmental disabilities.

During the COVID-19 pandemic many care managers stopped in person visitation and meetings with consumers at the very time when they are most at-risk. Nothing in Federal or OPWDD regulations or guidance prevented care managers from seeing consumers. Moreover, there is a perception among many service providers including the Gavras Center that this was part of a business strategy as Care Coordination Organizations saved millions of dollars by not seeing consumers.

I recognize and appreciate that the PWDD committee has several care managers who volunteer their time and talents as PWDD board members. However, the role of a board member is separate and distinct from that as an agency representative.

Thank you for you considering my request.

Sincerely,

James Breslin
E. John Gavras Center Chief Operations Officer

