

Cayuga County Community Services Board

Laurie Piccolo, Chair

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Mental Health Subcommittee March 17, 2022

Members Present: Theresa Humennyj (Chair); Diane Schenck; Christine Bianco; Jean Petrosino-Winne; Elizabeth Vuillemot
Members Excused: Katie Stott-Dennis
Members Absent: Beth Dishaw
Staff/Guests: Lauren Walsh, Director of Community Services; Elizabeth Burke, Deputy Director, CCCMHC; Judi Magee, Unity House; Becky Waldron, Cayuga Counseling; Yolanda Cherbini, Amy Sargent, and Cameron Farash, Liberty Resources; Kerry Welch, Hillside; Alyssa Maglione, Helio Health

- I. Theresa called the meeting to order at 12:02pm.
- II. Draft minutes of the January meeting were emailed to members. On a motion by Jean, seconded by Christine, the January 20, 2022 meeting minutes were approved as submitted; motion carried.
- III. Motion to amend agenda to include introductions. On a motion by Christine, seconded by Jean, the agenda was amended to include introductions; motion carried. Introductions took place.
- IV. **Public to be Heard** – None this month.
- V. **Director's Report** – Had a satellite office in Union Springs pre-COVID; that satellite office is now open again. A therapist is going out one morning per week and need will be assessed for going out more often. Mobile crisis team from 9-5 being examined; waiting for legislature to approve. Hopefully soon due to need. iPad program starting – law enforcement will be able to connect to the clinic during daytime hours and Liberty Resources after hours using iPads. Meeting with school districts soon to discuss what supports are needed. Meeting tomorrow for agencies that work with the jail to organize and coordinate services. Sounds like there will be a lot more support in the jail than there ever has been. Mandate for medicated assisted treatment at the jail goes effect in October, trying to be proactive about that. Liberty Resources is hiring a full-time jail diversion peer support hybrid position. 50% of time will staff Cayuga Respite and 50% in the community advocating for individuals. This is part of a one-year grant for jail diversion from COVID relief funds. Goal for long term – anyone who becomes eligible for health homes would be continued to be served under care management.
- VI. **Local Services Plan** – Liz Burke reviewed goals that pertain to the Mental Health Subcommittee:
Housing: 120 people without housing currently live in county. Housing Visions is working with DSS and Chapel House to create additional shelters and supportive housing in 2-3 years. DePaul is working on Church Street apartments in Port Byron. Received \$10 million in January from NYS funding. These apartments will be for senior citizens and individuals with mental health disabilities. Gavras Center is working on converting Cayuga Elementary to apartments for people with developmental disabilities and mental health challenges; target date for this project is 2024. Judi added that Unity House was just awarded funds for a new development through eShine. At least 12 beds for people who are without housing in addition to experiencing mental health and substance use issues. Timeline for this is 3-4 years. Theresa asked everyone to think about what can bridge housing service between now and 2-4 years from now.
Crisis services: Liberty Resources relationship is excellent; the HEALing Communities Study has provided funding to expand mobile crisis services to include substance use disorder calls, make the service available to the public with a direct phone number, and promote it through a public information campaign. With funding, CCCMHC in-house daytime mobile crisis team could start in summer. Liberty's crisis overnight respite has been operating since summer; they've had to reduce number of days due to financial problems (federal rules around salaries). Overnight crisis respite will operate 16 days out of the month. Crisis Respite

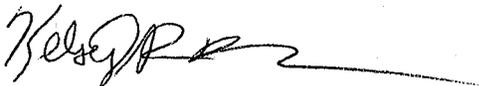
referral number: 1-855-778-1900; people can call that number directly if they need this service for themselves. State in beginning stages of a behavior health crisis line that will link to the national suicide hotline.

Workforce recruitment and retention: The original group of directors of community services and mental hygiene conference have been advocating for increased mental health funding. Toward the end of 2021, OMH funded agencies received notice they would be entitled to federal funding to be used for staff incentives and bonuses. Working on figuring out a plan so CCCMHC staff can be provided incentives. 5.4% increase in the state budget to be used for program support and hopefully increases in staff salaries. Additional money in budget for evidence-based programs can be implemented.

Prevention: Grants for substance use and suicide prevention. Big push to train CCCMHC staff in DBT (dialectical behavioral therapy) which is an evidence-based program that has a good success rate in working with people who have suicidal ideation/behavior. Hired a new clinic supervising social worker who will be spending more time on different community initiatives, including suicide prevention in the community. Another staff member has been recently trained in Mental Health first aid, so she will be available to provide trainings for organizations and community members. Met with Auburn Community Hospital Behavioral Health nurse manager recently; plan to have regular meetings with ACH staff to improve coordination between hospital and CCCMHC and hospital and the community. Hoping to meet with ER as well. Will pick this agenda item up next month with additional information on the prevention item.

- VII. **Mental Health Task Force** – The MHTF has met three times since previous meeting. Significant progress has been made. Meeting every other Wednesday going forward; next meeting is Wednesday, March 23 at noon. If you're interested, please reach out to Theresa or Liz Vuillemot. On Friday, May 6 from 12-1, planning to wear green and do a downtown walk and gather at either City Hall or the Heritage Center and honor Mental Health Awareness Month. Lauren will be speaking at the event. Also partnered with the YMCA for a panel on mental health. Mental Health Awareness month banner will be hung up near Hunters in May again. Hoping to get some mental health articles in *The Citizen*; please reach out if you would like to write one. Word count limit for the articles is 750. Making short videos at clinics with providers for Mental Health Awareness Month. Theresa will share minutes from Task Force meeting with Kelsey to send out.
- VIII. **Agency Reports** – (reports received prior to this meeting have been reviewed by members)
- a. Behavioral Health Unit – No representation.
 - b. Cayuga Counseling Services – No discussion.
 - c. Contact Community Services – No discussion.
 - d. Hillside – No discussion.
 - e. Liberty Resources – No discussion.
 - f. PROs/Unity House – No discussion.
- IX. **Old Business** – CSB will be reviewing reporting template in addition to who is required to report/who is encouraged to report.
- X. **New Business** – Still need a chair for Mental Health Subcommittee. If you're interested, please let Theresa know.
- XI. **Announcements** – From Jean: There is an open office in my private practice office suite at 33 Williams Street, Suite #3 that is available for rent. If anyone knows someone looking for office space to rent, please give them my name and contact info.
- XII. **Adjournment** – On a motion by Jean, seconded by Elizabeth, the meeting adjourned at 1:00pm; motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Kelsey R. Marquart, Senior Typist