

Cayuga County Community Services Board

Laurie Piccolo, Chair

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

Mental Health Subcommittee March 21, 2019

Members Present: Martin Centers, Beth Dishaw, Theresa Humennyj (Chair), Scott Marshall, Linda Murphy, Heather Paris, Deborah Riester, Diane Schenck, and Katie Stott-Dennis

Members Excused: All present.

Staff/Guests: Ray Bizzari, Cayuga County Mental Health Director; Jennifer Coughlin, Cayuga County Mental Health Deputy Director; Stephanie Dean; Karen Eller; Aaron Pascale; Judy Magee; Jean Winne-Petrosino

- I. Theresa called the meeting to order at 12pm.
- II. Draft minutes of the February meeting were emailed to members. On a motion by Scott, seconded by Martin, the February 21, 2019 meeting minutes were approved as submitted; motion carried.
- III. **Public to be Heard** – There was no public to be heard today.

IV. **Director's Report** – Discussion of volume of walk-ins at CCMH; Ray had a meeting about alleviating some of that. He also wants to make people more aware of the mental health services that are available in the county. Ray also met with Judge Thurston regarding behavioral health court and drug court; there are challenges associated with getting admitted into both courts. People who are eligible for both would go to CCMH first and see Cynthia Malek LCSW-R/CASAC and Shelyagh Kennedy NP, who are particularly qualified to work with both populations. Ray wants to see the two courts merge in order to streamline the process. The DA wants to review sanctioning; wants it to be appropriate and not work against recovery. Ray was encouraged by that discussion.

Jail is interviewing for a transitional coordinator, who will assist everyone who is released from jail to prevent reoffending. If anyone on the committee would like to be a part of the interview process, it's March 27th at 2:30pm; contact Brian Schenk.

Homeless services plan: OTDA (Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance) requires districts to write a homeless services plan. This involves no strategy regarding preventing homelessness – only what to do once someone is homeless. There are currently 85 homeless in Cayuga County. Ray wants to convert the former Cayuga County Nursing Home to a shelter with adult respite and make it a centralized location for services. Ideally, families would not be living in hotels.

V. **Speaker Series** – No scheduled speaker this month.

VI. **Local Services Plan** – Things are progressing and needs are being met. Focusing on reducing stigma and getting community agencies and partners on the same page re: promoting events. The Task Force continues to be strong with coordinating with agencies.

- a. Mental Health Task Force – Focusing on Mental Health Awareness Month. Please let the Task Force know if you have any events coming up. Cayuga Community College puts purple pinwheels on their lawn for domestic violence awareness; have reached out about something similar for May.

Children's Mental Health Awareness Day is on Thursday, May 2 at Cayuga Centers. SAMHSA celebrating Children's Mental Health Awareness Day on Monday, May 6. Unity House/PROS is going to participate, as is Auburn Community Hospital. *Every Brilliant Thing*, a theatre production that focuses on dealing with depression, will be put on Friday, May 3 at 7pm at CCC through NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness).

VII. **Mental Health Awareness Month** – Banner for downtown (near Hunter's Diner) to promote mental health awareness has been funded by the county. Goal for the month is to be collaborative with other agencies. Start thinking about actions/events you would like to see and share them with the Task Force, which will pull those together. If anyone has any slogans/quote ideas for the banner, let the Task Force know. Scott brought up the possibility of recording PSAs on CCC's radio station.

VIII. **Agency Reports** – (reports received prior to this meeting have been reviewed by members)

- a. Behavioral Health Unit – Not discussed.
- b. Cayuga Counseling Services – Not discussed.
- c. Contact Community Services – Not discussed.
- d. Evergreen – Not discussed.
- e. Hillside – Not discussed.
- f. Liberty Resources – Not discussed.
- g. PC² – Going to discontinue warm line for 3-4 months. Don't have the money right now, will be applying for a grant to fund it for a year. Call volume has gone down. Ray is going to talk with Martin re: getting the program a county phone. First weekend of May will be doing a bake sale at Kinney's on Owasco and a homemade t-shirt sale.
- h. PROs/Unity House – Not discussed.

IX. **Old Business** – None discussed.

X. **New Business** – Discussion re: Auburn Community Hospital being in the news a lot lately. Ray says relationship with BHU is the best it's ever been and they do a good job. Martin says it's welcoming up there.

XI. **Announcements** – Jean's program manager comes back Monday, March 25 after six months. Access the Facebook page here: [Mental Wellness for Cayuga County](https://www.facebook.com/mentalwellnessforcayugacounty) ([facebook.com/mentalwellnessforcayugacounty](https://www.facebook.com/mentalwellnessforcayugacounty))

XII. **Adjournment** – On a motion by Martin, seconded by Scott, the meeting adjourned at 12:52pm; motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Kelsey R. Marquart, Typist