

Cayuga County Community Services Board

Laurie Piccolo, Chair

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PEOPLE WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES SUBCOMMITTEE

June 11, 2020

Members Present: Stephen Smith (Chair), Katherine Dunchak, Lorie Fischer, Kimberly Granato, Joan Meyers, Elizabeth Signorelli
Members Excused: Timothy Donovan, Andrea Hansen
Members Absent: None
Staff/Guests Present: John Lenhart, Samantha Glenn, and Theresa Sheldon, OPWDD; James Breslin and Mark Reppi, Gavras Center; Josh Overstreet, Prime Care; Ray Bizarri, Cayuga County Mental Health; Denise Vreeland, Mozaic; Renee Choiniere, Unity House; Shannon Abate, Life Plan; Dan Kelly, Onondaga Community Living

- I. **ROLL CALL/CALL TO ORDER** – Called to order by Stephen at 12:05pm.
- II. **PUBLIC TO BE HEARD** – None.
- III. **REVIEW OF MINUTES** -- Members were emailed a draft of the January 9, 2020 minutes. On a motion by Elizabeth, seconded by Kimberly, the minutes were approved as submitted. All in favor, motion carried.
- IV. **CONTINUING DISCUSSION ON EMPLOYMENT** – Due to the subcommittee last meeting in January, Steve suggests this discussion be tabled for the time being and picked back up in the fall. Agreement from committee. Steve is going to go back and review what was already done, then repackage what still needs to be done for fall. Kim has information regarding parents that she and Steve will discuss.
- V. **AGENCY REPORTS** -- Agency openings were requested and sent prior to the meeting. Updated copies of the Agency Service Openings Chart were sent prior to the meeting.
 - **The ARC of Seneca Cayuga (Now Mozaic)** – People are hunkering down in IRAs, providing some services to people living at home, those in the state IRAs who attended their dayhabs are not receiving services from Mozaic. Most individuals have been impacted significantly, getting a little stir-crazy in week 11 or 12, especially because the weather is so nice and options are limited. Hoping visitations and community outings will be able to start up again as reopenings happen. Still waiting for guidance on dayhabs opening up. Mozaic experienced both temporary and permanent layoffs. Restructuring of the agency has happened due to COVID. All daytime programs are now under one director (Michelle VanGeisen in Cayuga County). A new hierarchy chart will be distributed when finalized. Still have Heather O'Connell as Director of Residential Services in Cayuga County. Also still in midst of merge with Yates county.
 - **ARISE** – Not represented.
 - **Cayuga Centers** – Not represented.
 - **Cayuga Counseling** – Not represented.
 - **DDRO** – No updates beyond what's already been put out there. John encouraged people to call the info line on the OPWDD website – all questions go to his team. James from Gavras Center asked for insight into the Governor's new executive order for testing employees of nursing homes/adult care situations. John is going to look and send that information to Kelsey to distribute to members and agencies.
 - **Gavras Center** – Been engaging in creative ways with people who can't come to dayhab/community hab: Google Classroom (both online and paper version), Zoom groups, deliver meals MWF, weekly phone calls to check in, continue to operate community hab/day hab in limited fashion for those who are in their homes. Offering dayhab to IRA residents and have been throughout COVID restrictions, will continue to do so until regular dayhab is possible. There are three IRAS that have four residents per IRA – their operating certificates will be held by Kelberman Center. Part of this is because they have clinical staff that residents need and a higher ability to meet their needs. Instituted telehealth in the IRAs – got

a grant through state CP. Kiwanis Club recognized one of the Gavras Center Dayhab consumers, Gerald Servais with the 2020 Adult Services to Youth Award. He's been volunteering at the preschool doing meal distribution for several years. Gerald was able to choose a charity of his choice to donate \$300 to and he chose the Red Cross because of the COVID situation. Dayhab will open according to OPWDD recommendations/guidance. Have been surveying families to see what their comfort level is w/r/t services to participate in as things open up. About 15.8% of people with developmental disabilities in New York State who have gotten COVID have died as a result of it.

- **Onondaga Community Living** – Reduction in volume of services across the board since the end of March is about 38%. Did get a PPP loan to help compensate staff members. Obtaining PPE was a challenge in the beginning but that supply is much now. Good portion of staff continue to go into the community and still serve people who they've been serving. Very proud of team and staff and their commitment, particularly because of the risk level to DSPs. Telehealth is being implemented. One concern Dan has is cutting budget because of families picking up care of people without state's help (seeing the 38% reduction and adjusting budget accordingly). Service volume is creeping back up – seeing exhaustion from families. Kim added from a parent point of view, she stopped all services to take care of her son – thinks many parents who became unemployed did/were able to do the same thing to keep their family members safe. Also said there's a point where families want services to restart. Post-Standard just published an article about how folks with developmental disabilities are more at risk from dying of COVID; must be diligent about keeping family members safe. Families picked up what they needed to do to take care of their loved ones, going the extra mile, but they can't continue to go down the present course even if it's a money saver.
- **Unity House** – Had an outbreak of COVID at an IRA just outside of Auburn. Almost in the clear; a few more days of quarantine remain. Has been a terrifying and stressful experience. The IRA had five individuals; four tested positive for COVID and three of those four were hospitalized due to high risk/underlying health conditions. All three are home from the hospital now and all four are recovering very well. Watching for regression. Three employees at that IRA also tested positive for COVID and are all recovering well. Stressful for both agency and families. Constant communication with Health Department; they were fantastic and very helpful throughout the process. Very thankful for their support.

VI. DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Clinic stayed open throughout this. Waivers for telephone treatment and started a telehealth platform. Still had in-person appointments for injections and pill boxes. Been really busy, good response to transition from both staff and clients. On care management side, worked around people not wanting staff in houses. Treatment never really interrupted for anyone. Daily visit volume up quite a bit from where it was last year at this time. Still able to offer same-day services for people. Working on a re-opening plan in terms of blended scheduling with telehealth and in-person appts. Not sure if billable telephone waiver will continue past July 6. Expect to hear soon about state aid (possible 20% cut).

VII. OLD BUSINESS – None discussed.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS – Shannon Abate to be formally nominated by Steve to join the committee to fill an opening in September. Elizabeth, Kim, Kate and all said Shannon would be a wonderful asset to the committee. Steve's two years as chairperson are complete. If any member would like to serve as chair, let him know. Steve would also consider another term as chairperson for another term if no one else wanted to step into the role. Members thought that Steve should continue to chair.

IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS – No announcements.

X. ADJOURNMENT -- The meeting adjourned at 12:49pm on a motion by Joan and seconded by Lorie. All in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Kelsey R. Marquart, Senior Typist