

# Cayuga County Community Services Board

Laurie Piccolo, Chair

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## PEOPLE WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES SUBCOMMITTEE

July 11, 2019

**Members Present:** Stephen Smith, Chair; Diane Dolcemascolo; Timothy Donovan; Lorie Fischer; Andrea Hansen; Joan Meyers; Elizabeth Signorelli  
**Members Excused:** None  
**Members Absent:** Katherine Dunchak; Aileen McNabb-Coleman  
**Staff/Guests Present:** Ray Bizzari, Cayuga County Mental Health Director; Jennifer Coughlin, Cayuga County Mental Health Deputy Director; Michele VanGiesen, ARC of Seneca County; Kristen Jackson, ARISE; Becky Waldron, Cayuga Counseling; Beth Astramskas and Vince Schmidt, DDRO; James Breslin, Gavras Center; Shannon Abate, Life Plan; Lee Sullivan, Unity House;

- I. **ROLL CALL/CALL TO ORDER** – Called to order by Stephen at 12:01pm.
- II. **PUBLIC TO BE HEARD** – None this month.
- III. **REVIEW OF MINUTES** -- Members were emailed a draft of the June 13, 2019 minutes. On a motion by Timothy, seconded by Andrea, the minutes were approved as submitted. All in favor, motion carried.
- IV. **LOCAL SERVICES PLAN REVIEW** – There is a goal in the LSP regarding employment. This group will be devising a strategy of how to better interact with employers in the community to get more people employed. Along the lines of how we we can get Access VR and SEMP providers (Unity House, ARC, agency-based providers) get more connections into the community and how to integrate individuals into community (performing other jobs than what they currently do eg. pushing carts, stocking shelves at the same locations; not everyone wants to do this). What can we do to get employers to see the benefits of hiring people getting services? How to move people out of poverty toward education – GED etc. CEDA (Cayuga Economic Development Agency) would be a good group to bring in. Committee should identify people you want to be involved with this endeavor and send their contact information to Kelsey. What can we do locally to support state goals? Transportation is a big concern – getting people to and from work. Education is necessary for jobs; what does education look like for those with a developmental disability? CDOS (Career Development and Occupational Studies) certificate is confusing for employers (replaced IEPs).

A new, conveniently located apartment development with openings for people with developmental disabilities is opening up in Cicero in November; this is a joint effort with the development company and Cayuga Centers. If local agencies are struggling to serve people, reach out to regional offices; they can offer help before it gets to the point of dropping someone's services. Steve wants education for the committee, then bring organizations in. Creating programs based on needs vs maintaining status quo along with working with employers regarding their needs. OPWDD office will have someone come in September to speak to committee.

**Diane arrived at 12:08pm.**

- V. **AGENCY REPORTS** -- Agency openings were requested and sent prior to the meeting. Updated copies of the Agency Service Openings Chart were available at the meeting.
  - **The ARC of Seneca Cayuga** – Currently have two openings for supervised apartments and two openings for supported apartments. Eight openings in dayhab across programs. ETP

program is in development. Just hired a new manager for both services who starts next Monday.

- **ARISE** – Freedom Camp at Casey Park, two sessions running over this week and next week. Continue to struggle with staffing for community hab, but always taking referrals.
- **Cayuga Centers** – Not discussed.
- **Cayuga Counseling** – Two trainings a year – one coming up in October. Social skills group twice a year, looking for kid/adult referrals who are OPWDD and family support eligible. Service access is still being offered, but referrals are down; always looking for referrals to help people get eligibility.
- **DDRO** – Not discussed.
- **Gavras Center** – Providing dayhab without walls services. Meeting with people they serve and their families. Idea is to get people out in the community – services provided in a center-based site can be provided anywhere. Already have 32 individuals. One opening at IRA. Accepting referrals for dayhab and communityhab. New hire with lots of experience starting in August.
- **Onondaga Community Living** – Not discussed.
- **Unity House** – Are now able to serve children ages 13-18. Historically UH has stayed away from kids. Took on self-direction and are serving children there, which opened the door. This is just for traditional agency provided communityhab. Accepting referrals now. Have discussed idea of group dayhab without walls. Communityhab is a one-on-one service. Minors would never be paired with adults.

**VI. DIRECTOR'S REPORT** – 17 year old DD girl who is in Tompkins County custody who was in ER 22 days. She is now in respite at Cayuga Centers with a one-on-one, being paid for by Tompkins County. This continues to be a problem across the state, people getting marooned in hospitals. Meeting tomorrow at OMH regional office with their commissioner, PWDD, OCFS, and commissioners from mental health and DSS. A facilitator is going to come in and talk about a potential regional pilot: if you were going to build a dream system, no constraints, what would it look like? This conversation will be followed up with a full day at Minnowbrook in October.

**VII. OLD BUSINESS** – Not discussed.

**VIII. NEW BUSINESS** – Health Department in conjunction with Auburn Community Hospital is doing a survey regarding healthcare in Cayuga County. There are 300 responses so far. Link to survey: <http://www.rmsresults.com/Cayuga> Timothy brought new Centro bus schedules. There is also a Centro mobile app. Diane shared that there is another children's care management program through Salvation Army.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT** -- The meeting adjourned at 1:05pm on a motion by Timothy and seconded by Diane and Elizabeth. All in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Kelsey R. Marquart, Typist