

Cayuga County Community Services Board

Laurie Piccolo, Chair

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Mental Health Subcommittee September 16, 2021

Members Present: Theresa Humennyj (Chair); Beth Dishaw, Jean Petrosino-Winne, Diane Schenck, Elizabeth Vuillemont

Members Excused: None

Members Absent: Katie Stott-Dennis

Staff/Guests: Ray Bizzari, Director, CCCMHC; Jennifer Coughlin, Deputy Director, CCCMHC; Amy Sargent and Latisha Burke, Liberty Resources Mobile Crisis; Judi Magee, Unity House; Sarah VanDoren, Cayuga Counseling; Nyka Phelps, PROs; Jason “Wally” Meyers, CCCMHC

I. Theresa called the meeting to order at 12:02pm.

II. Draft minutes of the July meeting were emailed to members. On a motion by Jean, seconded by Diane, the July 15, 2021 meeting minutes were approved as submitted; motion carried.

III. **Public to be Heard** – None this month.

IV. **Director’s Report** – Mobile crisis doing expansion work – will be able to respond to all behavioral health emergencies, particularly overdoses. Opening this service up to the public so the public can call directly. Adult respite open now, first admissions happened in the last week. Farnham Family Services received a SAMSA grant to open an opioid treatment program in Cayuga County and partner with CHAD. This means that all three forms of medication assisted treatment for opioid use disorder (Vivitrol, Methadone, and Buprenorphine) would be available in the county. We have 60-65 Cayuga County residents who drive to other counties to get their MAT daily, which is burdensome. Ancillary services offered would be outreach, engagement, and peer support. Talking to legislature about proposal for American Rescue Plan funds to create a few teams with social workers, adult protective service workers, and child welfare workers to meet the rising mental health demands of the county.

Ray’s last day is January 28, 2022. Legislature will be having a public hearing in October re: repealing the local law that merges the Commissioner of Social Services and Director of Community Services positions. Ray said that both departments deserve full-time leadership. Jean asked for an update on the closure of Evergreen Heights. Ray emphasized that Evergreen has been a great partner, taking on residents who had nowhere else to go. Ray believes that the people who moved from Evergreen will most likely stay at their new residences.

V. **Local Services Plan** – Theresa would like to carve out time in October and November to evaluate and recap the 2021 Local Services Plan. In December, the subcommittee can discuss what to include in the 2022 LSP.

VI. **Mental Health Task Force** – Has not met.

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

- Behavioral Health Unit – No representation.
- Cayuga Counseling Services – Not discussed.
- Contact Community Services – No representation.

- d. Hillside – No representation.
- e. Liberty Resources – Staffing and recruiting challenges. If anyone knows anyone who would be interested in working at a crisis respite, please refer them to Liberty Resources. Currently have three people living at the Cayuga County respite.
- f. PROs/Unity House – Judi at Unity House shared that their biggest issue right now is staffing, especially in the treatment apartment program. Have lost two of their senior counselors so only one is left. Only two residential counselors are available to cover second shift and weekend (overnights are covered). All positions are filled in supportive housing. Nyka at PROs also shared that they're experiencing staffing shortages. Two practitioners have left, down to one part-time person. Going to have a waitlist for a little while. Will be working with OMH to revamp/get some peers in there. Long term goal is to beef up graduation rate and/or getting peer certificates. She also shared that PROs had their annual dinner where Jackie Cioffa spoke; she has written four books, including one about her bipolar experience.

VIII. **Old Business** – The state extended the order that allows subcommittees to meet virtually.

IX. **New Business** – None discussed.

X. **Announcements** – None discussed.

XI. **Adjournment** – On a motion by Beth, seconded by Jean, the meeting adjourned at 12:46pm; motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Kelsey R. Marquart, Senior Typist