

Cayuga County Community Services Board

Laurie Piccolo, Chair

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PEOPLE WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES SUBCOMMITTEE

November 4, 2021

Members Present: Stephen Smith (Chair), Shannon Abate, Timothy Donovan, Katherine Dunchak, Kimberly Granato
Members Excused: Lorie Fischer, Andrea Hansen, Joan Meyers, Elizabeth Signorelli
Members Absent: None
Staff/Guests Present: Jennifer Coughlin, CCCMHC Deputy Director; Shelley Farrell, Primecare; Dan Kelley, Onondaga Community Living; Dan Lesinski, Cayuga Centers; Heather O'Connell, Mozaic; Josh Overstreet, Primecare; Theresa Sheldon, OPWDD; Becky Waldron, Cayuga Counseling

- I. **ROLL CALL/CALL TO ORDER** – Called to order by Steve at 12:03pm. Introductions were made.
- II. **PUBLIC TO BE HEARD** – None.
- III. **REVIEW OF MINUTES** – Members were emailed a draft of the October 14, 2021 minutes. On a motion by Timothy, seconded by Katherine, the minutes were approved as submitted. All in favor, motion carried.
- IV. **LOCAL SERVICES PLAN** – Jennifer shared her screen in order to show people where to go to find the Local Services Plan. The link to the website is:
<https://www.cayugacounty.us/1234/Community-Services-Board>
- V. **AGENCY REPORTS** – Agency reports were requested and sent prior to the meeting. Updated copies of the Agency Service Openings Chart were sent prior to the meeting.
 - **ARISE** – No representation.
 - **Cayuga Centers** – Continue to move forward, accepting referrals for all services. Growing waiting list for weekend respite services; currently scheduling about 6-8 weeks out. Submitted letter of interest to the regional office for expanding respite. CommHab continues to accept referrals, provided more CommHab last month than they ever have. Annual Satisfaction Survey gave Cayuga Centers high praise; 100% satisfaction reported from respondents. Struggling with hiring new Direct Support Professionals. Increased all current staff salaries by 8%. Current starting rate is close to \$16. Kim shared that her son started up with the DayHab program again after COVID and is absolutely loving it. It's made a significant difference to his mental health.
 - **Cayuga Counseling** – Social skills Zoom group starting next week with five participants; very excited because this is the biggest group in a while. Always accepting referrals of all ages for this program. Finalizing a date for the upcoming training and more information will be available as soon as possible.
 - **DDRO** – Nothing to report.
 - **Gavras Center** – No representation.
 - **Mozaic** – Referrals coming in steadily. Staffing is a challenge in all areas. Continue to have staff vaccinated on a regular basis. Trying to do outdoor activities as long as possible.
 - **Onondaga Community Living** – Merging with Exceptional Family Resources. Neither organization was in any financial trouble, but they went through an extended process of looking at shared values/mission, concluding that they would be better off as one organization. Because of this, they will be able to support better Direct Support Professional

salaries and benefit packages. No staff members will lose their job as a result of the merge. Current surplus of staff allowing for more long-term projects. Merge will not impact ability of either agency to accept referrals. Exceptional Family Resources will keep their name in the merge. EFR traditionally focuses more on children and OCL on adults, so by bringing the two organizations together, the entire lifespan is covered. Employment services will also be more robust now; EFR and OCL both offer services that the other does not. EFR offers a great amount of respite. On January 1, 2022 the two agencies enter into a strategic partnership with a shared service agreement; the goal is to be fully merged by January 2023.

- **Unity House** – No representation.

VI. DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Jennifer shared that CCCMHC is meeting with staff from Mozaic regarding psychiatry care to meet further needs for psychiatry service in the county. CCCMHC and other county organizations are working heavily on suicide prevention since the number of people who have died by suicide has risen in the last year; will be collaborating with primary care providers. Timothy shared that he is working with Cayuga Community College to organize a suicide awareness walk. Dan Kelley shared that SUNY Upstate has a program where you can consult with a faculty psychiatrist.

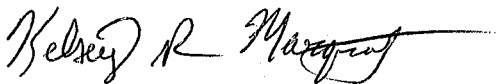
VII. OLD BUSINESS – County approved Stephen, Katherine, and Andrea for reappointment to the PWDD subcommittee. There is still a waitlist for interested members.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS – None to report.

IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS – Timothy shared that the Salvation Army will be providing Thanksgiving dinner via both delivery and at a community outreach dinner. If you know anyone who is in need of a Thanksgiving Day meal, please contact Timothy before November 16. If anyone knows anyone who deals with accessibility issues, please contact Stephen. Reminder that next month's meeting is December 2, moved up a week due to the holidays.

X. ADJOURNMENT – The meeting adjourned at 12:44pm on a motion by Timothy and seconded by Shannon. All in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Kelsey R. Marquart, Senior Typist