

MINUTES
Saratoga County Community Services Board Meeting
July 29, 2020

Present via Zoom due to COVID-19: Edmond Amyot, M.D., James Colamaria, Amy Hughes, Katie Lewis, Ph.D., Maureen Lewsey, Lillian McCarthy, Paul Morcone, and RJ Stutzman. Also present: Michael Prezioso, Ph.D., Megan Johnson and Cari Abatemarco from the Mental Health Center.

Absent: Wes Carr, Erin Christopher-Sisk, Ph.D., Captain Dan Morley

I. CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Amyot called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken. A quorum was established.

III. MINUTES

A motion to accept the minutes from 5/27/20 was made by Ms. Lewsey, seconded by Ms. Hughes. Motion carried.

IV. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD

None present.

V. DIRECTOR'S REPORT/OLD BUSINESS

COVID-19 Response Update – Dr. Prezioso reports that as of 7/20/20, 100% of the staff is present in the building. We have done several things to promote social distancing such as employee, patient and visitor temperature checks, signage throughout the building, social distancing stickers on the floors, mask wearing, hand sanitizing stations, altered traffic patterns to reduce congestion, and changes made in offices to promote social distancing, which are all in line with the CDC guidelines. Clinicians are seeing patients on site two days per week. On the remaining three days per week, treatment is being conducted via telehealth on site since there is no work at home policy. We are very focused on patient driven return to the facility. Thank you to Megan Johnson for completing applications through OMH and OASAS to add telehealth to our operating certificates so we can continue to offer those services to the patients. Mr. Colamaria would like to thank Dr. Prezioso for helping out with PPE at Four Winds.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Local Services Plan Changes – Dr. Prezioso asked members for input regarding various service needs that they are seeing. These are incorporated in the service plan. The state decided it would suspend the usual plan in favor of a survey, asking each DCS across the state to complete a survey related to needs of the various populations that we take care of, in particular regarding COVID-19. That survey was released last week and is due on September 15, 2020.

- B. 2020 Q3 State Aid Withholding – Dr. Prezioso reports that there is a significant reduction in tax revenue in our state. That comes on top of some pretty significant shortfalls that the state was facing going into the current budget year. As a result, we were told by OMH and OASAS that for the third quarter of this year, there would be a temporary withholding of state aid that they give to us. That state aid is passed through to our provider agencies. OMH’s withholding was 20% of the normal amount of state aid we would get for the third quarter and OASAS was 31%. We were able to connect with our providers and ask them to look for underspends in any areas they had. These withholds affect different agencies in different ways. One of the agencies that we work with was able to secure the payroll protection program funds. Dr. Prezioso would like to thank Cari Abatemarco and Lisa Banden who spent countless hours going through consolidated fiscal reports for all the agencies line by line looking for all of the areas where we had underspends.

- C. 2021 County Budget – We are told we had the best budget submission again this year. In discussions about the withholdings above, the county administration praises the fiscal people in our department. In addition to the spectacular clinical work that has been done and the continuity of care, Cari Abatemarco did an outstanding job as well.

VII. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for September 30, 2020 at 4:00 p.m.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ms. Lewsey, seconded by Ms. McCarthy. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 4:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by: Cheryle Ellsworth