

MINUTES
Saratoga County Community Services Board Meeting
December 2, 2020

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

Absent: Wes Carr and Paul Morcone

I. CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Amyot called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken. A quorum was established.

III. MINUTES

A motion to accept the minutes from 9/30/20 was made by Ms. Hughes, seconded by Captain Morley. Motion carried.

IV. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD

None present.

V. DIRECTOR'S REPORT/OLD BUSINESS

- A. COVID-19 Response Update – The COVID numbers throughout the county are increasing. We continue to coordinate with the Office of Emergency Services for PPE. We are also coordinating closely with Public Health, who has a new Commissioner, Daniel Kuhles. Mr. Kuhles comes from the State Department of Health and whose background is in contagious diseases. In terms of departmental response, we have received a number of calls from contract tracing staff for folks that they have been in touch with who are feeling various levels of anxiety and/or depression, secondary to concerns about having been infected or being placed on quarantine. The county is going to be doing a FaceBook Live Friday at noon and is in the process of being put together. Our department has continued to follow CDC guidance and continues to look for guidance daily regarding proper safety practices and proper patient care practices. Today, we moved in a different direction. Approximately 60% of our clients are being seen via telehealth and 40% of our clients are being seen onsite. Clinicians have two days per week to see clients onsite, based on their clinical need. Based on the number of increasing infections, we are moving towards telehealth for the next 6-8 weeks with guidance from OMH. We will shift our bias more heavily in the direction of

telehealth. Dr. Prezioso would like to thank Megan Johnson and Cari Abatemarco for working on the operational pieces of this plan. Discussions occurred this morning with County Administration and they are supportive of this plan. Through the end of January, we are going to be emphasizing telehealth and have no plans to close the building. In terms of infrastructure, we are looking into purchasing a higher level HIPAA compliant Zoom package. We are also contracting with Zoom to have accounts for all staff. Special thanks to Mike Noble, our IT Specialist, for assisting in this telehealth project.

- B. State and Local Budget Updates – The budget will be approved this week. There was a slight decrease in property taxes and the county did an excellent job given the current circumstances. Adjustments were made and we seem to be in good shape to move forward as in years past.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Trauma-informed Care for First Responders – A new CLMHD advisory board is being developed beyond EMS to include police and hospital staff. As per Mr. Stutzmann, there is a psychological wellness committee at the hospital which has not gotten a lot of use.

VII. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be January 27, 2021 at 4:00 p.m.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Captain Morley, seconded by Ms. Lewsey. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 4:36 p.m.