

MINUTES
Saratoga County Community Services Board Meeting
January 28, 2021

Present via Zoom due to COVID-19: Wes Carr, 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., Megan Johnson and Cari Abatemarco from the Mental Health Center.

Absent: Edmond Amyot, M.D. and Paul Morcone

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Hughes 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 12/2/20 was made by Ms. Lewsey, seconded by Mr. Colamaria. Motion carried.

IV. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD

None present.

V. DIRECTOR'S REPORT/OLD BUSINESS

- A. COVID-19 Response Update – There was a significant spike in the COVID-19 numbers during the holidays and SCMHAS returned to Telehealth, limiting the number of patients in the building for onsite appointments. We had a positive COVID-19 staff member and a small number of staff were placed on quarantine.

We will be posting our vacant psychologist position. Dr. Prezioso will cover this position until we fill the vacancy.

- B. State and Local Budget Updates – We were advised of a temporary withhold of 20%. Residential services were held harmless. The governor's budget proposal includes \$6 billion dollars from the federal government. If we actually get that \$6 billion dollars, the temporary 20% withhold will go away but will be replaced with a 5% permanent reduction. At this point, we can look forward to a little bit of relief per the proposal that was mentioned during the governor's recent statement. If the federal government delivers the entire \$15 billion the governor is asking for, we expect those cuts to be restored.

Dr. Prezioso has identified an under-spend in one of our lines that he would like to utilize a portion of and contract with a local non-profit agency to help us with education awareness training activities.

- C. Audit Inspector General – This audit affected multiple providers across the state and several county-operated providers. The covered audit period is from 2015 to 2018 for approximately \$107,000.00. We are in the process of developing a response, as are other providers, provider associations and the Conference of Local Mental Hygiene Directors. The services were delivered by qualified people and there is no question of fraud but the change was not communicated adequately and safeguards were not in place to return claims that were improperly submitted. 32 clinics were audited.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

By-Laws Update/Meeting Dates – Our oversight committee, Health & Human Services, met earlier in the month and will be meeting on the last Wednesday of each month. Because our By-laws stipulate that we meet on the last Wednesday of the month, Dr. Prezioso respectfully suggests that we change Wednesday in the By-laws to Thursday.

A motion to change Wednesday to Thursday was made by Ms. Lewsey, seconded by Captain Morley. Motion carried.

VII. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be March 25, 2021 at 4:00 p.m.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Wes Carr, seconded by Ms. Lewsey. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 4:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by: Cheryle Ellsworth