

MINUTES
Saratoga County Community Services Board Meeting
July 29, 2021

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

Absent: Erin Christopher-Sisk, Ph.D., and James Colamaria,

I. CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Amyot called the meeting to order at 4:07 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken. A quorum was established.

III. MINUTES

A motion to accept the minutes from 3/25/21 was made by Ms. Lewsey, seconded by Ms. Hughes. Motion carried.

IV. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD

None present.

V. DIRECTOR'S REPORT/OLD BUSINESS

- A. COVID-19 Response Update – We continue to see patients remotely and also onsite. The no-show rates continue to fluctuate. When the state of emergency ends, we will have a better picture of the no-show rates. Since we are defined as a patient care setting, all visitors and guests need to be masked, regardless of vaccination status, and clinicians need to be masked when they are seeing masked patients onsite. Dr. Prezioso commends the SCMHC staff for doing a spectacular job during this process putting together the infrastructure that allows the clinicians and support staff to continue maintaining contact with those who need our help. Dr. Amyot recognizes the higher rate of telehealth services, especially for people without accessible transportation. Dr. Prezioso is not opposed to opening up more telehealth flexibility since our operating certificate does include Telehealth.
- B. State and Local Budget Updates – The budget preparation process is underway. We have requested a reclassification of three of our substance abuse counselors and educators. The salary structure would be comparable with some of the entry level social work positions. You can be an LMAC with a CSAC and not make as

much money but do the same work. We are trying to find ways to keep some of the really terrific people we have on a career path and incentivize them.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Issues Around Workforce – 20-25% of the clinic staff, both youth and adult clinicians, are moving in the direction of private practice. Replacing people is going to be a challenge to us. Other county clinics are instituting three- and four-day work weeks or a work from home option performing telehealth. We have four clinicians leaving the clinic, one in August, two in September and one in October. Work force issues have been noted by the County Administrator.
- B. OASAS Administrative Review – This was done remotely rather than onsite this year. We received a couple of process corrections in minor operational terms. The OMH audit is underway. OMH received several positive comments from our patients.
- C. LSP 2022 - The Local Services Plan was completed on time.
- D. Use of Peace Officers for Transport – According to Mr. Stuzmann, there is a significant lack of transportation for mental health patients from the hospital to mental health facilities. The volume has skyrocketed and the need for beds is out of control. It's a complicated process and some patients are held on the ER floor for 4-6 days on occasion. There has been a surge in MH patients due to the pandemic. Regular ER volume is up as well. The use of Peace Officers would help facilitate this process.

VII NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be September 30, 2021 at 4:00 p.m.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Carr, seconded by Captain Morley. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 4:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by: Cheryle Ellsworth