

MINUTES
Saratoga County Community Services Board Meeting
October 28, 2021

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

Absent: Erin Christopher-Sisk, Ph.D., Katie Lewis, Ph.D., and Lillian McCarthy

I. CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Amyot called the meeting to order at 4:09 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken. A quorum was established.

III. MINUTES

A motion to accept the minutes from 09/30/21 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 – Everything remains status quo. We have not received a vaccine mandate for our facility and information will be forthcoming as there are still a lot of uncertainties and unknowns. Mr. Stutzmann indicated that the hospital has extended the religious exemption. Mrs. Johnson runs monthly reports for services in the clinic and in September we were at approximately 50% phone services, 40% in person services and 10% telehealth services. She indicated that the office is becoming increasingly busier. Mr. Stutzmann asked if there are any services available to help patients with reloading minutes on their phones for telehealth services. Ms. Johnson said we have gift cards available for that purpose.
- B. State and Local Budget Updates – Our budget was very well received. The Board of Supervisors has a workshop set up next week. Mr. Carr indicated the county budget is in good shape.
- C. Recruitment and Retention – Our work setting has been facing many shifts but we have been extremely fortunate to fill 4 of our 5 staff positions. We recently hired

a new Program Coordinator. She will be the day-to-day operations point person overseeing the three direct patient-facing programs. There still appears to be nursing/medical staff shortages across the state.

- D. CIT (Crisis Intervention Treatment) – Dr. Prezioso has had follow-up conversations and is reaching out to include other law enforcement agencies, including RISE. Initial CIT training is ongoing. Captain Morley said not all situations need to be handled by law enforcement.
- E. FACT – Training will be delivered to the team and money will be forthcoming. The program began with ACT teams, which are fully functioning clinical teams. Some of those teams evolved into forensically driven ACT teams to work specifically with criminal justice connected persons with behavioral health issues. The state put out requests for proposals related to diversion activities and that seemed like a direction we could go. There is enough money available to fund a couple of care management staff to work with this group for two years and collect data.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- A. EMS – Demands on healthcare providers and first responders continue to rise and there is an increasing rate of dysphoria, depression and suicide among those groups. Dr. Prezioso was recently asked to talk to three of the local EMS agencies (Wilton, Malta and Clifton Park) to help identify the needs that the crews have and become a potential resource to them.

VII. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be December 2, 2021 at 4:00 p.m.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Stutzmann, seconded by Mr. Carr. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 4:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by: Cheryle Ellsworth