

MINUTES  
Saratoga County Community Services Board Meeting  
December 2, 2021

Present: Edmond Amyot, M.D., Wes Carr, Amy Hughes, and RJ Stutzman.

Present via Zoom due to COVID-19: Lillian McCarthy, Paul Morcone, and Captain Dan Morley.

Also present: Michael Prezioso, Ph.D., and Cari Abatemarco from the Mental Health Center.

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

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Dr. Amyot called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m.

**II. ROLL CALL**

Roll call was taken. A quorum was established.

**III. MINUTES**

A motion to accept the minutes from 10/28/21 was made by Captain Morley, seconded by Ms. Hughes. Motion carried.

**IV. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD**

None present.

**V. DIRECTOR'S REPORT/OLD BUSINESS**

- A. COVID-19 Response Update – Dr. Prezioso stated that Saratoga County Human Resources is working on policy related to vaccine mandates and procedures but we are waiting for further direction due to recent court decisions. We were informed today of a new positive result in an employee but due to the timing of infection and the Thanksgiving holiday we are not required to take any action. Dr. Amyot asked if there has been any impact on our staff from patients who are positive for COVID-19. Dr. Prezioso responded that patients have been alerting staff to possible exposure and positive tests. Those patients are immediately shifted to telehealth. He also complimented our staff for diligent screening procedures and mentioned that we can follow up with Public Health with any specific questions that might arise. Dr. Amyot then asked the nature of our relationship with Public Health at this time. Dr. Prezioso explained that we have provided staff to vaccine clinics at times and that they have made booster shots available to us as essential service providers. Today he spoke with the lead contact tracer regarding our staff member and they responded with necessary information within 2 hours.

- B. CIT (Crisis Intervention Treatment) – Dr. Prezioso described the fundamentals of this program as relating to the relationships between the provider community and law enforcement. He explained that it will reduce law enforcement response to behavioral health crises situations, delivering instead the kind of intervention which can get an individual the care that they need. Ms. Hughes described the first training yesterday as excellent stating the speakers explained the process and provided examples of other locations that have had success with this program. She said it was very helpful to hear discussion of concrete proof such as the reduced number of ER visits and the reduced number of incident reports required of the Sheriff's Department. Capt. Morley said he enjoyed the training and is excited about the program. Dr. Prezioso explained some of the next steps would be formalizing an advisory board and 40 hours of upcoming training for law enforcement. Additionally someone from our department and someone from law enforcement will be trained to become CIT Trainers themselves. There will also be Sequential Intercept Mapping which will map out the entire process from point of contact with law enforcement to divert people who need care instead of incarceration. Dr. Amyot agrees that a program like this one has been needed for a long time.
- C. FACT (Forensic Assertive Community Treatment) – ACT Teams are multi-disciplinary teams that have contact with people who have different levels of need. Their efforts are focused on keeping people with behavioral health issues out of the hospital and assisting them with engaging meaningfully in various aspects of their lives. Some of those ACT teams evolved into forensically oriented teams. There is not enough money available to seed an entire FACT team but there is enough for two Full-Time Forensic Care Managers who will work through RISE. We have made arrangements with physicians from University at Rochester who originated the program and they will be doing the training. The state will contract directly with both entities. Dr. Prezioso is confident the program grant will be approved by the state and stated it would run through the end of 2022. Dr. Amyot requested clarification on who the program would be targeted towards. Dr. Prezioso explained it would be a resource for law enforcement to use and work in tandem with the CIT program. He is hoping that there will be demonstrated success with the Forensic Care Managers which will allow him to request funding from Saratoga County after the NY State grant expires at the end of next year.
- D. EMS – Dr Prezioso expressed continued concern over burn out, fatigue, and depression among EMS and law enforcement. He has met with local EMS agencies including doing the first of two 12 hour shifts with Wilton EMS to earn some first-hand experience. Greene County has provided him with information on the teams they have put together to respond to emergency calls that involve first responders. Dr Amyot asked for Mr. Stutzman's opinion on the expected perception of this program among first responders. He responded that in the last year there has been more recognition of the importance of self-care and taking

care of the caretakers. He believes based on his own experiences that the program will be welcomed.

## **VI. NEW BUSINESS**

- A. RISE-Dominic Hollow – They did a groundbreaking for a new residential setting in Ballston Spa which they anticipate will open next year. It will be a 60 unit building, 30 of which are for affordable housing and the remaining 30 are dedicated to supported housing. Dr Prezioso praised the Executive Director for her hard work on this project. He said he was happy to provide a letter of support to RISE for the supported housing aspect.
  
- B. Board Membership – Dr Prezioso apologized for the late addition but explained there was a pressing matter to address regarding Board membership. The bylaws state that a person can serve two consecutive terms on the Board after which they must step away for a minimum of one year before being eligible to serve again. It was brought to his attention that Ms. Hughes and Mr. Carr have both completed two consecutive terms of service as of December 31, 2021. He expressed his gratitude for all their hard work. Dr Amyot pointed out that the Board needs new members and Dr Prezioso outlined who would be a good fit. He described community members with connection or interest in dealing with populations that have developmental or intellectual disabilities, in addition to mental health and addiction issues. Next Dr Prezioso asked Captain Morley and Mr Morcone if they were willing to be reappointed, to which both responded in the affirmative. Finally, Ms Hughes pointed out that someone will need to handle Board emails going forward and Mr Stutzmann volunteered.

## **VII. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be January 27, 2022 at 4:00 p.m.

## **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ms. Hughes, seconded by Mr. Carr. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 4:39 p.m.

**Respectfully submitted by: Lauren Potenza**