

MINUTES
Saratoga County Community Services Board Meeting
October 27, 2022

Present: Edmond Amyot, M.D., James Colamaria, Amy Hughes, Maureen Lewsey, RJ Stutzmann and Michaelah Townley. Also present: Michael Prezioso and Megan W. Johnson from the Mental Health Center.

Absent: Erin Christopher-Sisk, Ph.D., Christina Holst, Lillian McCarthy, Paul Morcone, Captain Dan Morley, and Nicole Tremblay, M.D.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Amyot called the meeting to order at 4:10 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken. A quorum was **not** established.

III. MINUTES

A motion to accept the minutes from July 28, 2022 and September 29, 2022 could not be made due to the lack of establishing a quorum.

IV. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD

None present.

V. DIRECTOR'S REPORT/OLD BUSINESS

- A. Opiate Settlement/Proposals – Dr. Prezioso believes the county is in line to receive \$1 million by year's end as a result of the opioid settlements. Dr. Prezioso has been facilitating discussions among HHS Chairman Barrett, the Prevention Council, the Sheriff's Office Second Change Program, and the Veterans Services Agency Dwyer Peer-to-Peer program. The Prevention Council has funds available from a different source for one-half of a certified recovery peer advocate (CRPA) for doing homeless outreach. In support of each of those two programs, the county is going to buy the other half of that CRPA.

Dr. Prezioso and Chairman Barrett also met with Andy Gilpin, Executive Director of CAPTAIN, and talked about the possibility of a similar kind of arrangement using those opiate dollars to help support the work that CAPTAIN does at local area schools.

- B. EMS Support Update – There was a group of approximately 25 responders, which included law enforcement, EMS, Fire and Dispatch who participated in training that was provided by International Critical Incident Stress Foundation. There were

two, two-day-long trainings, one for supporting individuals and one for working with groups. The official start-up date is going to be November 1, 2022. IAR will be the platform being used. It's a communications platform app used by first responders. It allows notice to come in that there is an issue that requires a response by the Peer Support Team. The platform can be used to instantly notify team members, identify those able to respond, and then deploy those available. In addition to that, we are pulling people in from teams that already exist. We are working in the direction of one integrated multi-agency, multi-first responder peer support team.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Masking – Per OMH, masks must be worn in the mental health clinic at all times, while PROS is optional, since they are not part of the clinic.

- B. PROS Employment Specialist – Mrs. Johnson indicated there will be upcoming changes to the PROS program. OMH has embarked on a strategic plan that will incorporate more rehabilitation services into all of their programs, specifically on employment services. OMH is mandating a designated full-time employment specialist in every PROS program, no matter the size. That employment specialist will develop employment networks, job coaching and meetings with companies around the community to encourage employment. OMH has invested an additional \$3 million in this endeavor. It does not appear that funding will be adjusted to fully compensate for the cost associated with this mandate. Further, existing services will be duplicated. The CSB reached consensus on this matter, in that this change is not supported by the CSB. Careful review of the forthcoming state aid letter that will address funding for this change will allow the CSB time for thoughtful consideration of next steps.

VII. NEXT MEETING

The end of year meeting will be December 8, 2022 at 4:00 p.m.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ms. Hughes seconded by Mr. Colamaria. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 5:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by: Cheryle Ellsworth