

MINUTES
Saratoga County Community Services Board Meeting
December 8, 2022

Present: Edmond Amyot, M.D., James Colamaria, Amy Hughes, Maureen Lewsey, Lillian McCarthy, Paul Morcone, Captain Dan Morley, RJ Stutzmann and Michaelah Townley. Also present: Michael Prezioso, Megan W. Johnson, and Cari Abatemarco from the Mental Health Center.

Absent: Erin Christopher-Sisk, Ph.D., Christina Holst, and Nicole Tremblay, M.D.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Amyot 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 July 28, 2022, September 29, 2022, and October 27, 2022 was made by Ms. McCarthy. Ms. Lewsey abstained from voting for July 28, 2022 because she was not present for that meeting. The motion was seconded and minutes from all three meetings were approved.

IV. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD

None present.

V. DIRECTOR'S REPORT/OLD BUSINESS

- A. PROS Employment Specialist - OMH is mandating an employment specialist be added to all PROS Programs, and Dr. Prezioso thanked the board for their consensus in opposing the mandate. He stated he has not taken this opposition to the county administration yet because the state aid letter may have enough money to support the position. If there isn't enough then it would mean duplicating a service with an agency that we already contract with using state money. This would also divert funds from programs we identify as more valuable to one we already have covered. He concluded that when the state aid letter comes in he will contact the board. If the funds are not sufficient to cover the new position he will take the consensus of the board to the county administrators' office. However, if there is enough, he will address with them how to bring someone on board that isn't allocated in the current budget.

- B. Opiate Settlement/Proposals – The Board of Supervisors has agreed to provide support for the Second Chance and Peer to Peer programs. That as well as the family service navigator and educational materials are available to the Prevention Council. Dr. Prezioso stated that he and Supervisor Barrett met with the executive director at CAPTAIN to discuss possible uses of the funds for some of their programs in schools. CAPTAIN provided 3 different proposals but further conversations will be taking place.
- C. EMS Support Update – Dr. Prezioso states an additional 25 people have been debriefed regarding the recent shooting involving a police officer in Saratoga Springs. Dr. Amyot asked about fallout from that event and Dr. Prezioso informed the Board that, as issues continue to unfold, the Peer Support Team remains available to provide assistance.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Workforce: LMHC's – Ms. Johnson provided some background information regarding the clinics use of the title Staff Social Worker. She indicated that it is a civil service title that has historically been filled by a Licensed Master Social Worker or Licensed Clinical Social Worker. However, it appears other licensed professionals may be eligible to fill those civil service titles. These titles are offering services similar to ours, like family counseling and counseling to people of all ages. She stated there other county clinics we are looking at as models, such as Albany County. Ms. Johnson states the clinic is working with the Saratoga County Human Resources department to ensure these other titles fulfill civil service requirements as well as being able to perform the full scope of services that we offer. She elaborated stating it is not clear that these titles can participate in the evaluation process or treatment plan development which our clinicians here engage in. If not, they are looking at what kind of special accommodations would need to be made. While they are being cautious of that, she believes it would be advantageous to branch out into new titles, pointing to the tremendous challenge the clinic is having in fulfilling vacancies for the social work positions. Dr. Amyot asked for additional information regarding the education and training of the newly considered titles. Ms. Johnson explained they are all Masters level degrees and each has training parallel to social workers in that there's post graduate work and testing for licensing. Dr. Prezioso recognized Ms. Johnson for all of the work she's done to contact people around the state and collect information about options available to us, stating she's made things as easy as possible for Human Resources to consider possible alternatives.
- B. TenEleven – Dr. Prezioso explained that we continue to have struggles with the software which the staff and our IT specialist Mike Noble have been documenting. The county attorney has reviewed the contract which expires on 12/17/2022 and the decision has been made to continue with the existing contract. This will give us the opportunity to make a thoughtful change down the road if

the issues aren't resolved. Ms. Johnson described the clinic as somewhat satisfied with the Electronic Medical Record until such time as the company changed the e-prescribing platform to New Crop in June of 2022. She said for this reason they are working diligently to eliminate the issues that have arisen with the new e-prescribe system.

- C. CFR Process – Cari Abatamarco presented some background on the CFR Process describing it as the Consolidated Fiscal Report which is how the use of state aid is reported quarterly to them. However, the state recently updated their software which no longer supports quarterly reporting as this is not deemed a requirement. Our auditor has requested a resolution from the Community Services Board which waives their quarterly report requirement as a result. With the new process, state aid will be advanced by voucher and the CFR due June 1st of the following year will be used as the reconciliation document for any overpayment of state aid. Ms. Abatamarco explained that Dr. Prezioso signs an attestation yearly which promises that we will distribute funds within 30 days of receiving them. The concern is, without this resolution, the auditor might hold up the process, causing us to be in violation of that attestation. Ms. McCarthy made the motion and Dr. Amyot took a vote. The Board voted unanimously to pass the requested resolution.

VII. NEXT MEETING

The Board agreed to contact Cheryle Ellsworth in regards to the proposed schedule for 2023. The first meeting of the year is tentatively scheduled for January 26, 2023 at 4:00p.m.

VIII. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Before adjournment, Ms. Lewsey asked to say a few words. She discussed a two day training that Dr. Prezioso arranged relating to incarcerated individuals with severe mental illness. She described it as outstanding and said there was great interaction between the corrections officers and mental health providers. She thanked Dr. Prezioso for arranging the training. Dr. Prezioso explained the speakers were a clinician and an academician from the University of Rochester who developed a forensically focused community treatment/ACT team approximately 25 years ago. This was a much needed opportunity to provide some information and training and establish connections. Dr. Amyot then complimented Dr. Prezioso's great work to project the clinic into the community and asked the Board if they would make an official comment of gratitude for his efforts. Captain Morley said it would be his honor to put the motion forward and Ms. Lewsey seconded. The motion passed unanimously and Dr. Prezioso expressed his gratefulness to the clinic staff, calling Ms. Johnson a phenomenal leader and Ms. Abatamarco equally extraordinary. He recognized the Board and thanked them for their support.

VIV. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Dr. Amyot and seconded by Ms. Lewsey. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by: Lauren Potenza