

MINUTES
Saratoga County Community Services Board Meeting
January 26, 2023

Present: Edmond Amyot, M.D., James Colamaria, Amy Hughes, Maureen Lewsey, Lillian McCarthy, Captain Dan Morley, 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, Paul Morcone 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 December 8, 2022 was made by Mr. Colamaria, seconded by Ms. Hughes. Motion carried.

IV. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD

None present.

V. DIRECTOR'S REPORT/OLD BUSINESS

- A. PROS Employment Specialist – As previously discussed, OMH is mandating that an employment specialist be added to all PROS programs across the state. After careful review by our Program Coordinator, we were able to go back and look at some of the finer points of the proposed programs. With some minor tweaking, we will be able to meet the qualifications of the mandate without having to withdraw any existing services. We were able to adjust some staff assignments to make this possible. Dr. Prezioso thanked the Board for their consensus around moving forward if it needed to be challenged.

- B. Opiate Settlement/Proposals – We plan to reach out to BOCES to talk about developing some programs to bring to the schools. Dr. Prezioso has had conversations with Prevention Council to discuss ways to get that implemented. Supervisor Barrett, who is the chair of the Health & Human Services Committee for the county, has asked us to go in that direction. Ms. Hughes asked if all of the opioid settlement is going to BOCES or are other agencies applying for funding? Dr. Prezioso said not by design but by default, because of their capabilities. That is where the funding has been going to this point. Dr. Prezioso has reached out to S.O.S. regarding their proposal.

- C. EMS Support Update – The Peer Support Team met last in December. The total number of individuals served through the Peer Support Team was 165. There are several referrals out for follow-up. There was a recent ambulance accident last week in Malta. Dr. Prezioso has been talking with the agency director at Malta EMS about bringing services to them. Also, Ballston Spa Fire and Community Ambulance would benefit from services due to the significant number of cardiac arrests that fell on one particular day last week, one of which involved a 4-month-old. One of the other cardiac arrests involved one of the responders having to perform CPR on a close relative. Through the Suicide Prevention Center of New York, we are scheduled on March 8th to present a webinar about the program structure and the way it was implemented. During the last few days, Dr. Prezioso was in Buffalo for a 9-week program and was approached by someone from DCJS to come and talk with them about the services we are providing.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Staff Psychologist – Dr. Bastien, our staff psychologist, is moving on to greener pastures the third week of February. He was formerly the chief psychologist at one of the state psychology centers. He was also the executive director at Four Winds. He is moving to Boston to be closer to his family and will be running an adolescent program there. Family Court has been advised that we will not be able to take anymore requests for Family Court evaluations. Dr. Bastien also did psychological testing and consultation for all of the programs, not just the youth program. Paperwork has been completed to begin the re-hiring process. The starting pay is around \$96,000.00. We will be able to continue providing pre-employment psychological exams to the Sheriff’s office candidates, but it will affect our rotation for 730 examinations, which are court ordered.
- B. Staffing: Architecture and HR Discussions – For several years we have deployed staff to the jail. That has since been modified because a couple of staff have transferred to the jail, as the jail is mandated to provide behavioral health programming and addictions-related programming. However, we continued to send Dr. Glozman to the jail each morning to provide consultation and to conduct one part of the 730 evaluations. The medical director at the jail left months ago but they contracted with Prime Care for medical services. They wanted Prime Care to deliver the medical services and have Dr. Glozman write the scripts that formerly he was just consulting on. It became a logistic issue because, as soon as we write a script, we are responsible for the patient. Prime Care has decided to send a Nurse Practitioner to replace Dr. Glozman. As such, Dr. Glozman will now be in the clinic on a full-time basis rather than going to the jail each morning.

Discussions continue with HR regarding reclassifying items or identifying new items that are a little bit more consistent with what is out in the market. We are looking for similar types of positions or similar things in different counties because we want to be able to recruit and retain people. We have requested two

years running now and have been turned down both years. Dr. Prezioso thanks Megan Johnson and Cari Abatemarco for doing all the legwork and investigating about what was going on in some of the other counties, as well as elaborating on some of the particular responsibilities that some of these folks have taken on. We are hopeful and we will continue to advocate for our employees.

- C. Mechanicville Community Support Center – We have a staff member that is retiring at the beginning of March. He had been going to Mechanicville to provide services. He approached Dr. Prezioso about a post-retirement minor contract to continue providing services in Mechanicville. Heading into this current calendar year, two existing contracts were declined and not renewed. In light of this, Dr. Prezioso didn't feel comfortable asking for a new contract at this time. Dr. Prezioso believes that we should be able to get a \$15,000.00 minor contract to continue providing these services in Mechanicville. Ms. Hughes says it is such a big help to have someone come down there because so few of the people living right around there don't have transportation to get to Saratoga. And there is no CDTA in Mechanicville.
- D. AIM Services Telehealth Grant – We have very little contact with the OPWDD system but one thing that has come up from time-to-time is kids and adults with both mental health and developmental disabilities. AIM Services program in Saratoga is going to be moving forward with a telehealth program. Psychiatry consultation will be available through grant money. It's an additional service that will be available in Saratoga. We don't have much contact within the clinic with those types of issues.
- E. RISE: Dominic Hollow and Crisis Stabilization – Dominic Hollow will be opening this Spring. There is a YouTube video of drone footage showing the building. Dr. Prezioso took a tour a couple of weeks ago and states that it's a gorgeous building. There will be supported housing beds there. They are also going to be repurposing some beds from a CR level of care to 12 beds that will occupy rooms in Dominic Hollow. OMH field office people have been talking to RISE finance people and they have everything worked out and it's a done deal.

VII. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be May 18, 2023 at 4:00 p.m.

VIV. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ms. Hughes and seconded by Mr. Colamaria. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 4:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by: Cheryle Ellsworth