

MINUTES
Saratoga County Community Services Board Meeting
November 9, 2023

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

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Amyot called the meeting to order at 4:07 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken. A quorum was established.

III. MINUTES

Motion to accept the minutes from July 27, 2023 and September 28, 2023 was made by Ms. McCarthy. Ms. Lewsey abstained from voting for the September 28, 2023 meeting due to being absent. The motion was seconded by Captain Morley. Motion carried.

IV. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD

None present.

V. DIRECTOR'S REPORT/OLD BUSINESS

- A. Budget 2024 - The budget proposal was submitted, as previously noted. Some of the proposed items were omitted. The full board will be voting on the budget early next month.
- B. Personnel Requests – Dr. Prezioso indicated that we will be submitting a proposal to the HR committee for an unfilled RN item. Because of preferences and organizational need, we are going to request that the 1.0 FTE be split into two 0.5 FTE, which will allow for more flexibility. There is some interest in part-time work and we would like to be as flexible and accommodating as we can be. It has been a challenge to find and retain staff. Dr. Amyot inquired whether the salary is competitive with that of hospitals. Dr. Prezioso stated not to the degree or with the packages that hospitals are offering. While increases have occurred, they remain noncompetitive.
- C. Safety – There have been several episodes of drug paraphernalia, human waste, sleeping bags, etc., being left around the facility. County Administration is requesting that we send photo documentation of those things when we see them. HR indicated there were safety concerns in other County buildings, and some have a security presence, including HR. Administration would like to talk with us Monday morning about having something similar here. They supported an extra camera out in the back of the building to help ensure that this is a safe environment

for staff and patients. Ms. McCarthy asked how things are with Code Blue across the street. Dr. Prezioso stated that he wants everyone who comes here to feel comfortable, while also ensuring it remains safe. Ms. Lewsey asked if there was a place that Code Blue clients could receive information regarding services and educate them as to what is available. Ms. Hughes stated that once Code Blue is open 24 hours, there will be a navigation center open daily from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. where they can get those resources.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Daniel's Law - Daniel's law stems from an interaction with Rochester Police Department and Daniel Prude, a person with a mental illness, which resulted in his death. This prompted the Governor's office, OMH, and ultimately the legislature to look at what the appropriate emergency service response is to someone in a psychiatric crisis. Dr. Prezioso indicated that an Orange County counterpart of his was appointed to an advisory board that was formed for this purpose. There has been one meeting with more to follow. Potential implications are not just for us but for law enforcement as well and emergency services across the board. In terms of the standard response for a violent psychiatric client, Captain Morley indicated that, in his experience throughout the years, emergency services waits until law enforcement has secured the scene before entering. Dr. Prezioso acknowledged that EMS entering the scene is in fact dependent on scene safety, and Mr. Stutzmann added that it is also based on the triaged call to dispatch and history.

- B. EMS Peer Support Team – There are now 75 trained responders. Over the course of the first year, there have been approximately 130 individuals helped in 250 meetings with those individuals and 14 critical incident debriefs totaling around 120 people. We have conducted educational programs, referred out for higher levels of care, and Dr. Prezioso stated that he had been asked to consult with individuals approximately 8 to 10 times. Without the support of the County, funding from the EMS Council, and the training and trainers provided by the International Critical Incident Stress Foundation, none of this would be possible.

VII. NEXT MEETING

December 7, 2023 at 4:00 p.m.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ms. McCarthy and seconded by Ms. Hughes. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 4:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by: Kellie Russo