

Seneca County Community Services Board

Pat Plyter, Chair

Community Services Board Meeting Minutes

November 16, 2021

(Conducted Via Videoconference)

Members Present – Jeanette Rock, Dr. Joseph Lorenzetti, Pat Plyter, Stanley Hatch, Tammy Anhorn, Peter Same, Susan Ottenweller, Michael Enslow, Jennifer Palmer, Kathy Sinkiewicz

Guests - Margaret Morse, Tammy Orlopp, Brenda Black

Excused – Veronica Mittak, Lisa Heitmann, Dr. Theodore Papperman, John Cleere

Welcome - Meeting was called to order. Quorum present. Introductions were made.

Secretary minutes from October - Motion to accept initiated by Susan Ottenweller and seconded by Michael Enslow. No discussion. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carries.

Jeanette Rock has been voted in as a board member and the final approval will be by the Committee on November 23, 2021 and then the full Board of Supervisors on December 14, 2021.

Public Announcement –

Consumer Report – Jeanette Rock – DIC - Working as a peer support worker at the Drop In Center. Our goal is to provide a safe and healthy environment for members and staff. The hours are now expanded on Thursday and Fridays until 7pm and half day on Saturdays. Thank you to Tammy Orlopp, we were able to work out scheduling. Some of the places we have been able to take the members to is Cameron's Bakery, Five Below, some local shopping twice a week and have also been able to take members to the food giveaways for Seneca/Cay for those in need. Bingo is offered once a month and looking at doing a trivia/game night. During the month of October the DIC had 364 members, a few of the old members have come back. Tammy and FLACRA have met for an advisory committee with staff and the public. The DIC is awaiting on renewal confirmations from NYCC for the members that go to the fitness center, twice a week. There are a couple new inquiries for membership about going to the fitness center. If the new inquiries show they are willing to go then the DIC will submit for a membership.

Committee Report (Susan Ottenweller) – MH Subcommittee meeting was held prior to the CSB meeting via zoom on November 16, 2021 @ 5:30pm. Several agencies submitted reports for the last quarter.

Rackers Center – Sally Manning is on vacation. Quarterly report was submitted. In the report was discussed the extensive and encouraging work the Rackers Center does with Seneca County.

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Unity House – Sandie Case – not present – Working with Seneca County on employment and still have very low numbers.

It was discussed at the committee level about the difficulty it is to move people with mental health issues into employment.

Margaret Morse – On the addictions side of things for addiction treatment, the people who provide those services, CASAC's, are certified substance abuse counselors, the training is focused on a whole person approach on treatment and recovery oriented. Mental health providers are not as familiar with the recovery model. There is less of a focus on discharge from admission and less focus on what their life will look like when not meeting with their counselor anymore and what supports they will have after therapy. People do not need to be in therapy forever, but may need medications forever, and may need other supports for recovery in place. Vocational experiences and supports is one of those things. Employment is a predictor of long term recovery for people with mental health or substance abuse disorders. Things are changing as there is a lot more resources and trainings available to support staff in moving toward recovery focus treatment.

The numbers at Unity House may be low due to Covid, whereas some services, like in person services have not been available. Unity House does not just get their referrals from the clinic, they should be doing outreach and engagement to all mental health services in the community. What the clinic has direct control over for county operated services, that starts with supervision and with training for staff and focus in team meetings. Margaret will attend team meetings and ask questions, like have you discussed employment with this person, is that something the client might be interested with. This is being done with a vocational counselor on the addictions team as this is funded through the state. It is a matter of bringing people along and the staff to know the value of employment and remind them during supervision this is something that should be discussed and then we may see more numbers. This should be a goal of our services to get those people capable of working, working and reduce the number of services clients need as this is a means to support themselves and be engaged in work and society.

Happiness House – Shelby Fisher – Quarterly report was submitted. Has services to 5 Seneca County residents with Traumatic Brain Injury. Happiness House is also facing a staffing issue shortage.

Lakeview – Ashley Kise – Quarterly Report was submitted. The one forensic apartment is being used currently and the other apartment there is a lead on leasing it. The occupancy rate at the apartments in Seneca Falls is 89%. Currently Lakeview does not have a property manager they have become slower in taking and processing applications.

Ashley will be asked to change under supportive housing where it is listed as forensic apartment, these are transitional apartments. These apartments can be used by people transitioning from various levels of care, including life circumstances, jail, prison, hospitalizations or dropping down from different levels of care.

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Children Services – Bob Ritter – Quarterly report was submitted. All over the state agencies are struggling with workforce issues. Struggling to get people to travel to rural areas to provide home based children services, there are waiting lists and not enough state aid through the county to support additional services to supplement that. It is a behavioral health workforce crisis that is driving that all over the state. Children are unfortunately sitting on waiting lists.

Secretary minutes from September 21, 2021 for Mental Health subcommittee - Motion to accept initiated by Pat Plyter and seconded by Tammy Anhorn. No discussion. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carries.

Director of Clinical Services - Brenda Black - Submitted a report covering from May 2021 to November 2021. Since May, the clinic has done over 15,000 services in mental health clinic. These services are about 50% face to face in person and 50% telehealth. There has been just over 2,000 children services. The clinic currently has 1,458 clients, with 288 admissions between May and October. Working with staff on trainings and bring in more outside agencies for trainings. The clinic is continuing ongoing training on suicide risk assessments and risk levels. Staff are attending outside trainings in person and virtually. As we know crisis is up in our county. There were 95 crisis services as opposed to 68 at this same time frame last year. That number does not reflect necessarily all that we are doing with billable services, does not reflect all the phone calls, wellness checks that we are doing or anything else that we are doing that is not billable. Staff are seeing higher needs in the schools with increase a crises and increased caseloads.

The clinic has welcomed Natalie Pistor, LMSW to fill our open position at the Seneca Falls Middle and High school. Sharon Hall and Tina Zapetis both have received their LCSW's and have been promoted to Psychiatric Social Worker II.

Current clinical positions open: Mental Health Clinical Therapist school position is in south Seneca Schools.

Psychiatric Social Worker I

Senior Psychiatric Social Worker

Also looking to fill the positions for the crisis team, 1 program director, 4 mental health clinical therapists, 4 peer advocates.

The cap office has a women's shelter but do not accepts domestic violence clients. Safe Harbors is still looking at the process of developing their women's shelter. They are expecting to open in 2023.

Any crisis at the schools would only be counted in the numbers for the clinic if they are clients of the clinic. Crisis numbers in the county are significantly higher than that we list at the clinic.

Margaret gave kudos to Brenda and the staff at SCCCC.

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The needs in the schools have shifted a bit from in school need to some at home and social needs from isolation from Covid.

Suicide prevention – the clinic continues to work with staff and train on suicide risk assessments and risk levels. The Out of Darkness Walk raised \$12,131. The goal was \$10,000.

Director of ASA - Tammy Orlopp – Prevention – Had two new hires that started, Stephanie Watts and Jennifer Wheeler. We have gotten a new contract with Romulus Central School. Been working diligently on a source of prevention funding. The grant proposed to RFP was due last Friday and just found out that they extended this until December 1st. Hopefully we will get some monies to support new evidenced based programming from that grant. Should hear about this by December 12th.

Jeanette had updated on the DIC on capacity and hours. FLACRA is working on identifying staff to run the actual recovery program from connections. Margaret and Tammy have a meeting with a potential person who may be taking that position at the DIC.

Still no word on the prevention audit, that should be coming soon.

Administrative Remarks-Margaret Morse DCS –

The clinic had a highly qualified clinician start working at the South Seneca schools in September and in less than 3 months, the hospital system she left scooped her up offering her a significant sign on bonus to come back to the hospital.

This is not just Seneca County, other agencies experience constant staff shortages. This is particularly difficult in a rural area like Seneca County to attract people from outside the county and to keep them.

There is a crisis intervention team that meets monthly, school superintendents. Chiefs of police, resource officers, CIT officers, Director of behavioral health services from Cayuga medical center, Director from the comprehensive psychiatric emergency program and ect, it is a large meeting with lots of stakeholders, where staff talk about difficult crisis cases in our community and how we can wrap around them to help prevent arrest and hospitalizations and get services in place for these people. The last three meetings, Cayuga Medical Center has reported being above capacity for children's inpatient and admissions. We have had kids that we work with waiting in emergency rooms for a week to find a bed for them all over the state of NY. Kids mental health is at a critical point right now. Kids are presenting with much higher acuity and admission rates are higher. The percentage of people presenting that are actually admitted into the hospital with higher level of acuity of their presentation has significantly increased.

There has not been an updated list of suicides for the county. Those numbers remain the same and there also have not been any additional overdose deaths in the county since our last meeting.

Margaret gave kudos to Brenda Black and Tammy Orlopp on the work they do for the county services.

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SAMSHA Grant – When families or individuals have mental illness or co-occurring mental illness or substance abuse disorder or experience either of these in the community and the police respond to that crisis or maybe eventually the police wouldn't need to respond to the crisis if it doesn't require the police to respond, the crisis team would respond into the community, would provide follow up to the individual and families who have had contact with the police and where they have not initially been called in, can be utilized and engage and wrap around families as a prevention piece to prevent future crises and some interim services in the home connecting them to other types of services to wrap around them. It is in person mobile crisis services, some of the services can be provided over the phone as well. Sort of like a warm line type of service. That is what this grant will support. In addition the grant will help us sustain the infrastructure we have built to continue our telehealth services. The Board has approved all of the nine positions, they should be posted now on the county website. The Director is the priority. Director will collaborate and recruit, write policies, and develop procedures.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Congratulations to Michael Enslow on the re-election to the Seneca County Supervisors position.

DIC – No updated information from Lakeview. There is a wait from the state to move those funds into our state aid letter. Once this happens we will formally amend our contract with Lakeview and then they can post the position and begin recruiting. The rationale of Lakeview running the Drop In Center is they currently runs other Drop In Centers. Lakeview has the experience to do the work, the county already have an existing contract with them. This will be monitored and if Lakeview is not meeting our expectations then the county would need to revisit on how to manage that contract.

School staff – Jennifer Palmer - There are a lot of mental health needs during the pandemic, and there were mental health needs before the pandemic. We are meeting the needs better together as we are reaching out and trying to use all the community resources in addition to the school base resources. Teachers are putting mental health as a priority at the schools. Trying to do professional development with the staff, with helping them support each other and the students. Our district just completed the first roll out of the teen mental health first aid program. The team had discussed Youth Mental Health first aid which is for adults supporting youth, but Teen Mental Health First Aid is teaching the students how to recognize the signs of crisis in their peers and how to connect them with appropriate help. The past couple of weeks this has been rolled out in the health classes and it is powerful to see how engaged the kids are. This is researched based and generating some great conversations amongst the high school students and empowering the students to support one another.

Tammy Anhorn – Things are going better than last year at this time. Everything is very positive.

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Kathy Sinkiewicz – Things are going well. There are more kids in crisis at the Elementary and Middle/High schools. The kids are needing more of the mental health supports. The district is trying to increase the training for the staff around mental health issues. The fact that everybody is at school is really positive.

CIT – This last training was the largest group to date. There were state troopers for the first time in attendance. The officer from Interlaken was present. Seneca Falls police department now has every member of their department trained for crisis intervention. The county continues to have great experiences with local law enforcement. The patients and community members are very appreciative of the caring interventions that they are experiencing with the police. The first CIT training about three years ago was hosted in Wayne County and many of those officers were volun-told to attend. The law enforcement officers that attended the recent all volunteered. The evaluations at the end of the training were very high and they found it to be helpful. There will be continuation of training our law enforcement officers. Margaret Morse, John Cleere and Kaitlin Laskoski have discussed about doing refreshers for the officers who have gone through the Crisis Intervention Training, that there may be some sort of annual refresher curriculum that would do with them as well. The SAMSHA Grant will pay for 25 officers, 911 emergency management, dispatchers would be able to be trained. The monies from the grant pay for 40 hours of officers time and would cover any overtime for the workers during that time. It is a wonderful training.

Therapeutic Crisis Intervention (TCI) – This is started as a residential thing and is taught in the schools. How much of the CIT training aligns with the skills taught from TCIS, that are being taught to a select group of crisis responders at Mynderse.

Vaccine Mandate update – There are a number of different legislative vaccine mandates out there right now. The Federal government has mandated vaccines for various health care facilities and health care workers. Those facilities and workers do not have the opportunity to test out, they have to be vaccinated. OSHA – Department of Labor regulations for businesses with over 100 employees, and those workers have the opportunity to be vaccinated or test out weekly. We did not know whether outpatient clinic facilities would be included in the health care facility vaccine mandate, public health is included in this. All public health workers have to be vaccinated and cannot test out. We just got the word today from the state that our outpatient clinic is not included in those mandates. This is an interpretation of the federal mandate, still unsure what the governor will do, or the commissioners of Office for Mental Health, or Alcohol and Substance Abuse Services. Residential services through Lakeview as an example, those workers are mandated. Any inpatient or hospital services are mandated, whether that is addictions inpatient or detox services, or inpatient mental health services, those workers are mandated without a testing option. But for now there is no mandate for our mental health and addictions clinic.

2022 CSB Nominations – Peter Same is up for reaffirmation of his CSB role in December. He can let the board know at the December meeting

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There are two resignations – Dr Papperman has indicated that he is retiring from the Board after the December meeting. His letter of resignation will be sent out to the members. He has been a member of the board for close to 30 years. Dr. Papperman is the chair of the ASA Subcommittee and the only member of the membership committee. This position will be up in December.

Lisa Heitmann has given a letter of resignation and this will be sent to the members. She is currently the vice chair of the CSB. This position will be up in December.

An email will be placed out to all the members in CSB to see if anyone is interested in the ASA chair, the vice president chair. If you are interested in either of those positions and want to be nominated to let Pat Plyter know. An orientation folder is in the process of being made for all the new chairs regarding what their responsibilities are and the membership above all the committees. If you know anyone who would interested in joining the CSB, we are accepting new members.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Stanley Hatch and seconded by Jennifer Palmer.

Next meeting: Tuesday December 21, 2021 @ 6:30pm. ASA Subcommittee meeting will be held prior at 9:00am VIA Zoom

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Lisa Reynolds, Board Secretary with reviews/revisions made by Margaret DCS and Pat Plyter CSB Chair