

# Seneca County Community Services Board

Stanley Hatch, Chair

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## OPWDD SUBCOMMITTEE

October 19, 2021

(Conducted via videoconference)

**Members Present:** Stanley Hatch (chair), Lisa Leary (OPWDD State), Pat Plyter, Rose Palmieri, Margaret Morse (DCS), Denise Vreeland, Kathy Sinkiewicz, Lisa Heitmann, Amanda Bishi (OPWDD state)

**Introductions Made.** Meeting was called to order Motion to accept secretary minutes from July. Motion to accept initiated by Pat Plyter and seconded by Rose Palmieri. No discussion. All in favor. None opposed. Motion Carries.

**Denise Vreeland – Mozaic –** A report was distributed. It is not mandatory for everyone to be vaccinated. Due to the staffing crisis elsewhere, this is being looked at before any decisions are made. All of the staff are encouraged to be vaccinated. Mozaic is keeping track of who is vaccinated. If it was to become mandatory for a staff member to get the vaccine, they are asked - yes or no - so they would know what the impact would be. There are a few hard no's and will probably lose a few staff. The back-up plan if staff leave is to close down the day hab programs and move staff to the residency. Residency is a 24/7 and would need to be staffed. This is a last resort, clients like being able to go out and socialize. Moziac is down two nurses, there are certain requirements that nurses need to be in the residential areas and this is a struggle. The clinic is doing a lot of virtual appointments. Some individuals do well with virtual but others need the face to face. A satisfaction survey was completed and received about 10% back by mail. These surveys are also being completed around the time of the client's annual reviews, to get more feedback. There are planning coordinators that are reaching out to families of the individuals that are supported as well to try to get some answers to the survey questions and this is helping to get some feedback. There is a whole person leadership team which is the service directors who meet twice a month and once a month during this meeting any issues from surveys or comments go onto this forum and the service directors are aware of any issues going on and address them right away.

**Margaret Morse – DCS –** The OASAS and OMH are requiring the vaccine in all of their residential services, regardless whether they are state operated or community based.

Seneca County does do free a-symptomatic testing. This can be looked up on the Seneca County website.

At the clinic we are focusing on is ensuring that anyone who needs to face to face services are receiving them. All staff and clients are masked for face to face visits. All clinicians have to do a form with every

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client which identifies if there is medical necessity for telehealth for insurance companies to pay for telehealth.

**Lisa Leary** – OPWDD – A report was distributed and reviewed. Lisa Leary is retiring on November 10, 2021. Amanda Bishi will be taking over the OPWDD subcommittee meetings for Seneca County. Amanda runs the family support services for all 17 counties, also has a role on both the CCO team and the 63312 teams.

Commissioner Castner is no longer with the OPWDD, a new commissioner is yet to be named by Governor Hochul. In the meantime, Roger Beardon, is the executive Deputy commissioner taking over. We are still under the public health emergency (PHE); the federal government will actually determine the end date for this and the flexibilities will go to 6 months after that end date for the PHE. Which is good the service delivery system, which telehealth or virtual has worked and possibly do a hybrid or face to face. Flexibility remains in offering Day Hab, community Hab and Pre-Vocational services. Some of the Flexibilities were made permanent after July 1, 2021 in the HCBS waiver. This includes ongoing authority for the use to telehealth in Day Hab, Prevoc, Respite, Pathway to Employment, Support Brokerage, Com Hab, and Semp. This amendment will also establish CSIDD resource center services as Intensive Respite in certified settings.

5.07 planning is a comprehensive plan for the OPWDD agency, setting the direction of the agency for 5 years. The State Mental Hygiene Law requires that this plan is reviewed annually. That is in the final draft and has to be presented to the governor and legislature on November 1, 2021. So in November the role out of the 5.07 plan will occur. Feedback from the stakeholders meeting was similar to that of last quarter which is the workforce performance incentive and the crisis in the workforce is the main issue. Being discussed is workforce longevity and retention bonuses, vaccination incentives, recruitment initiatives and digital infrastructure.

FMAP dollars will be used as a result of what comes out with the 5.07 plan, meaning when the 5.07 plan comes out the FMAP dollars will help enhance that. This is dated from April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022. The draft plan is located on the NYS DOH website at:

[https://health.ny.gov/health\\_care/medical/redesign/hcbs/enhanced\\_funding/](https://health.ny.gov/health_care/medical/redesign/hcbs/enhanced_funding/)

**Kaitlyn Laskoski** – LEC – A report has been distributed.

**Jennifer Clark** – Person Centered Services – A report has been distributed.

A motion to adjourn was made by Pat Plyter and seconded by Rose Palmieri.

Next meeting will be held January 18, 2022 @ 5:30pm. CSB to follow at 6:30pm.

Submitted by: L. Reynolds