

# Seneca County Community Services Board

Pat Plyter, Chair

## Community Services Board Meeting Minutes

February 15, 2022

(Conducted Via Videoconference)

**Members Present** – Joseph Lorenzetti, Peter Same, Susan Ottenweller(Vice Chair), Tammy Anhorn, Kathy Sinkiewicz, Pat Plyter(Chair), Beth Pardee, John Cleere, Stanley Hatch, Jeanette Rock, Peter Same, Jennifer Palmer

**Guests** - Margaret Morse, Mike Alessio, Brenda Black, Bethany Felicita, Marie Gigliotti, Michael Enslow

**Excused** – Tammy Orlopp, Veronica Mittak

**Welcome** – 630p Meeting was called to order. Quorum present. Introductions were made.

**Secretary minutes from January** - Motion to accept initiated by Stanley Hatch and seconded by Susan Ottenweller. No discussion. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carries.

**Public Announcement** – None

**Consumer Report** –Jeanette Rock reported that the DIC is a safe, happy, healthy environment for staff and members. Local shopping is offered to consumers for their needs. Consumers are taken to the free food giveaway offered by the House of Concern. N95 masks and Covid test kits were handed out to members and staff.

**Director of Crisis Response** - Bethany Felicita – First month of services are on the books, with January 11 as the start date. For the year, based month to month we are shooting for 30 services a month and report that so far we have served 57 cases. Staffing update, Bethany is still working solo, with support from Brenda and Margaret and the backup team, everyone is willing to pitch in to help. The Crisis Response team is still recruiting for four crisis peer workers and four clinicians. A breakdown of the 57 individuals served, 13 were children between the ages of 0 to 17, the other 44 were adults over the age of 18. Good news is no one was hospitalized. One of the things being worked on is making sure these clients have linkage and support. Eleven of the 12 were already connected or linked to Seneca County and the other was linked with Tompkins County. Crisis Response have been able to reach everyone by telehealth or by phone. The Crisis Response has been able to test this service in every way we can, clients coming to the building, going out into the community, telehealth with the goal being ED diversion. This was successful for January. Those in February that have been sent to the hospital, Crisis Response will be able to provide them with some support and ensure that there will be communication and follow up while that individual is in the hospital. Everybody that needed the service did get the service.

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**Committee Report (Susan Ottenweller)** – MH Subcommittee meeting was held prior to the CSB meeting via zoom on February 15, 2021 @ 5:30pm. Several agencies submitted reports for the last quarter.

The DIC is back to normal with 306 visits over 26 days in January with offering the same kind of programs prior to Covid.

There are recovery support peer services offered upstairs at the DIC. The State Opioid Response grant through the Office of Alcohol and Substance Abuse services are in collaboration through FLACRA. Our DIC is called Seneca Connections and coincidentally FLACRA's recovery support center which is quite large out of Canandaigua is called Connections. FLACRA has a satellite for their recovery support center upstairs at the DIC. FLACRA is focused on providing peer support on the 12 step programming, Alanon groups, Peer recovery groups, yoga, meditation, a virtual connection to FLACRA Connections Recovery Support Center out of Canandaigua. Triple P, which is a Positive Parenting Program, evidenced based practice, is being offered through the Council on Alcoholism. They have a certified trainer and we will begin providing that program to parents in Seneca County in the near future.

Lakeview – Reported that they are having difficulties with having enough staff. The occupancy for Lakeview Heights is at 80%, 26 apartments are for our residents and 22 of the 26 are occupied currently. The overall apartments in Seneca County is 176, and 143 of those are occupied. The supportive housing has 275 and only 225 of those are occupied. There are waiting lists, but feel if they cannot provide the services they should not be accepting the residents.

Bob Ritter – reports out for all children services in Seneca County. A lot of the referrals come from schools, several from individual therapists and he talks about how those referrals get filtered out to what kinds of programs they get funded into. Majority of these services are Medicaid funded as opposed to

Bob Ritter is the Coordinator of Children Services and also the SPOA Single Point of Access Coordinator. The biggest barrier anywhere is workforce. A lot of the services for children with or without Medicaid wind up having children waiting for those services because there is not enough of a workforce to provide the service. State aid funds provide supports to kids who don't have Medicaid. There was interim services provided to kids with Medicaid, even though the funding is for non-Medicaid kids due to we are not going to leave kids without services because there is no one to provide those services. There is work with local providers to get services that are paid for through state aid. These are not clinic services. The services that Brenda spoke of are all services provided through the clinic or in the schools which are the psychiatry services, therapy services through the clinics licensed clinicians and medication services. The services that Bob refers to are to are care management services and children and family treatment and support services which are home based services. These are skill building, psychosocial rehab services, these are services provided in the home to kids and their families.

Unity House employment services – Still have same issues with lack of service. Susan and Stan want to meet to come up with ideas on how to address the issue of our community not taking advantage of state funded vocational support and services that are available.

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**Program Director of Clinical Services** - Brenda Black – During the months of November, December and January, the clinic did 7,016 services. Of those services, the clinic did 2,961 telehealth, 4,055 in person services. There were also 1,564 children services, this is up 852 services from last year during the same time frame. There has been a significant increase in these services, with higher needs in schools and higher caseloads and more crises within the schools and clinic in children services.

The clinic has welcomed Jessica Kight, Marriage and Family therapist to fill the Mental Health Clinical Therapist position. She is currently based in Skoi Yase school 2 days per week and in the clinic 3 days per week.

The clinic is still offering Dialectical Behavioral Therapy group to our patients and dual focus groups which is for patients with dual diagnosis of Substance abuse disorders and Mental Health disorders.

The clinic has openings for a school based position in South Seneca and a Sr Psychiatric Social Worker.

The clinic received a one hour presentation from Maggie Mahoney from Mozaic on services provided and how to link clients with services. This was a zoom presentation.

Suicide Prevention Coalition – Brenda attended 2 meetings and it has been decided to combine the steering committee with the substance abuse coalition steering committee. Sally Manning reported out of the community schools grant, where Seneca Falls, Romulus and South Seneca received a significant grant that they are participating in to work on suicide prevention, which 90% is for training staff. Seneca Falls is the lead district on this grant. There is training for Youth Mental Health First Aid, assist train the trainers, training workers to assist youth in transitioning back into school for whatever reason. The AFSP is targeting physicians now in emergency departments to ask the depression scale questions. Today it was reported that United Way is working on family boxes and working on family engagement. They have reached out to 230 families to give them opportunities to engage with each other. While doing this they are working on resources in the community, adding resources for mental health and substance abuse, resources for food and clothing and other things that can be added to the boxes for the adults along with family engagement activities.

**Director of ASA** – Margaret Morse on behalf of Tammy Orlopp – Services are up. Prevention is going well.

**Administrative Remarks-Margaret Morse DCS** – OCFS grant for Domestic Violence services was awarded for \$50,000. This will go toward victims to pay rent, for new household start up, to furnish apartments, car repairs if needed, to help purchase a car or lease, and many other items. It can pay for trainings, help and assist in mental wellness for Elizabeth our Domestic Violence worker. There is currently a grant in place that assists in paying for most of her salary, there is a little bit of a county cost for her salary. This grant can pick that up. This will be brought to the committee before going to the full board. This grant will provide support to existing services and directly to victims of domestic violence.

Covid update – The clinic is a health care facility and are required to follow the guidelines for wearing masks in the building. Staffing is at critical levels, colleagues in Ontario County have closed the doors

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to intakes. Wayne County is on the verge of closing their doors for mental health intakes. Counties all over the state of NY who provide mental health and substance abuse services are closing their doors because of staffing issues. John D Kelly which is a provider of mental health services in Yates County, lost all of their staff except for one outpatient clinic therapist, they are working to find providers. Yates County have reached out to surrounding counties to see if they can help and step in to help with services. The Seneca County clinic is providing between 50 and 60 new intakes per month.

Seneca County did sign a contract with OASAS today for the retention grant. The clinic has started a Wellness Committee. The clinic will be purchasing stuff for the new staff wellness room, which will include a massage chair, ability to play music, a place for the staff to take breaks and really rejuvenate and take care of themselves. Part of our SAMHSA grant is also around the mental wellness of our staff. The clinic is planning all sorts of training and retreats and other sorts of activities for staff. This grant will be paying for staff to renew their licensures and paying for their continuation credits. The clinic is doing what we can to help support our staff. Ryan chiropractic will be invited to do mindfulness curriculum with the staff.

**OLD BUSINESS** – Drop In Center - Lakeview Health Services has 2 candidates in the interview process.

Tammy Anhorn – The students at Waterloo are back in school. There was a short week where the schools went remote, it was something that had to happen as so many staff were out. There have been different lines of discussions on how challenging this is for families and to show them grace and support as much as we can. Everyone is trying their best to help each other.

Jennifer Palmer – The Seneca Falls school has seen an increase in crises with the kids in the last month or so. The staff appreciates all the support they have received from the clinic and the crisis program. Not only the responsiveness for the students, but for staff on how to best support a kid and family.

Kathy Sinkiewicz – The South Seneca school have had several more cases of Covid with staff and students, particularly at the elementary level. There was a week of closure, but everyone is back now. Hoping that after the February break the surges decrease. There are a lot more kids in crises and the school counselors are very busy every day.

John Cleere – In January John took over as chair of the board for Safe Harbors. The residence has been worked on all winter for the modifications made by OCFS and how they want it done. Problems like the septic system had to be updated and a lot of code stuff has to be updated. This is pretty close to being finished, waiting on OCFS, they are slow with the policy approval. There have been the same issues with workforce that everyone has. Safe Harbors are hoping to be able to open the doors summer of 2022.

There is a new crisis intervention training for correction officers, this will be a first in the Finger Lakes, possibly in the state. There is no curriculum for this so Kaitlyn Laskoski modified the police officers curriculum for the correction officers. This was offered to the supervisor's school earlier this month that correction officers who promoted to higher ranking, Sergeant, Lieutenant, ect. This was very

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successful, there were officers from all over the Finger Lakes. All positive reviews came back on this. Kaitlyn and John taught this training. Kaitlyn is currently modifying the basic school of corrections for CIT and will be teaching that next month. Also added to both is an 8 hour class for ethics training. This was introduced for the first time. This covered noble cause corruption, ethical dilemmas, duty to intervene, passive and active by-standard ship.

The LEC had a new Christmas program that started in corrections and went over big. There is a certain amount of money that is set aside from inmate commissary and the company puts in a certain percentage. Our rule is this has to benefit the inmates. All the inmates that are parents were able to purchase \$50 worth of presents for their kids. This will be done again as it had a positive response in corrections.

**NEW BUSINESS** – Veronica Mittak has resigned.

**Corporate Compliance Training** – Annual Mandatory Corporate Compliance Training provided to Board Members by Margaret Morse via PowerPoint presentation. Those not in attendance are asked to review the presentation and sign off on training attestation form provided. All in attendance also asked to sign off on training attestation.

Motion to go to executive session was made by Stanley Hatch and seconded by Peter Same.

Motions to close executive session was made by Stanley Hatch and seconded by Dr. Lorenzetti.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Jeanette Rock and seconded by John Cleere.

**Next meeting:** Tuesday March 15, 2022 @ 6:30pm. ASA Subcommittee meeting will be held prior at 5:30pm VIA Zoom

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