

Seneca County Community Services Board

Susan Ottenweller, Chair

MH SUBCOMMITTEE

May 17, 2022

(Conducted via videoconference)

Members Present: Margaret Morse (DCS), Brenda Black (MH), Bob Ritter (MH), Jeanette Rock, Jennifer Palmer (CSB), Pat Plyter (CSB Chair), John Cleere, Sally Manning (Racker's Center) Tammy Anhorn (CSB), Shannon Coccimiglio (Unity House)

Members Excused: Sandie Case,

Welcome - Meeting was called to order. Introductions made. Motion to accept initiated by Jennifer Palmer and seconded by John Cleere. No discussion. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carries.

Shannon Coccimiglio – Program Director of Unity House – Over sees Unity Employment Services in Seneca County as well as other counties. Shannon has been invited and sat in with clinic meetings attempting to increase referrals to the program. Sandie Case is the manager of the Geneva office for Voc Ed services. Seneca County is one of 6 counties served. Unity House would like to increase the amount of people supported, specifically in Seneca, Ontario and Yates Counties. The hope is to get an increase with referrals to support more people who have a mental health diagnosis with their employment.

Summary of Sandie's report – Supported 16 people in the first quarter out of 36 slots, some folks were discharged in the first quarter due to varying reasons. Unity House has received two referrals from the clinical meeting that Shannon attended at the clinic. Shannon will continue to attend the meetings to think about the vocational end. If anyone has any kind of vocational questions, concerns or thoughts, please reach out. Unity House is experiencing a staffing crisis. Geneva is more staffed than the sister sites.

Sandie Case – Unity House – A report has been submitted.

Margaret Morse – Reviewed the progress of the 2022 plan. One of the major roles of the Community Services Board and the committees of the Community Services Board is to plan for the services in the county. The services that are covered through the Office of Mental Health, the Office of Alcohol and Substance Abuse Services and the Office with Persons with Developmental Disabilities. Each subcommittee has a template of goals and outcomes that are observed and addressed throughout the year, then the progress is reviewed, decide what the

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county wants to continue to the plan for the next year, then this is submitted by Margaret to the state. The state historically requires this to be submitted in June, last year this was extended to August due to Covid. This year this has been extended to September, due to the complete revamping of the state recording system.

Margaret brought up about speaking with Kaitlyn Laskoski and bringing Unity Employment into the jail to work with inmates who have a mental health disorders and are employed or who want to be employed and could benefit from support and if there could be a connection and meet with inmates from the jail before being released.

John Cleere – There was in the past there was vocational trainings, but it something that went by the wayside. This could be worthwhile to pursue again.

Shannon – Those who do not have a mental health diagnosis but have another diagnosis where they could receive a discharge planning support through Acces VR.

Bob Ritter – Children Services – A quarterly report was submitted. There have been limited to no access to some Medicaid funded services. These are services that went into effect April 2019, there has been a little progress on this. The agencies that were initially designated as providers, called child and family treatment support services, were not able to hire staff in Seneca County. Bob spoke with Cayuga Centers in Auburn and they applied to become a vendor in Seneca County and were approved awhile back. Cayuga Centers has been juggling staff to get more focus on Seneca County. There is a waiting list for 5 for skill building, whereas last month there were 11. Two other services, one called Other Licensed Provider which is a clinician that works in a nontraditional setting and Community Psychiatric Support and treatment and they have no waiting list at all and are taking some of those referrals on the waiting list. Last week Bob received a referral from the school and spoke with the mom, her son does have Medicaid and what the mom wanted was in home counseling. A referral was made to this other agency Other Licensed Provider and they contacted the mom and this has actually worked out. Pathways has posted for positions to provide these services in Seneca County as well. Glove House is preparing to make an offer to someone to fill a position for a service called Hifi (High Intensive Family Intervention). Due to Systems of Care, Bob is looking at the way services are being provided and whether they are being provided in occurrence with the Systems of Care values, which should be family driven and person centered and not by the professionals.

There are family members coming to Bob to state this is happening are there services to address the situation, and they should be referring to their care manager and why this linkage has not been made. There are now monthly presentations by the providers, this month started with the Youth Bureau. There are seven agencies that provide health home care in Seneca County, two of them have offices in Seneca County and the rest do not. The concern is that

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those who are not based in Seneca County are not knowledgeable of the services that are in Seneca County. When the transition of Children services happen, they will remove the requirement that all referrals for services go through the SPOA committee. This is making it very disjointed service delivery and a lack of coordination. SPOA has only been meeting when needed to review but are required to review referrals to community residences and special treatment facilities. They are re-instituting those meetings to twice a month and encouraging care management agencies in particular to use that as a way to formulate the plan for the youth with the parents. The parents and a care manager should come to a SPOA meeting to meet all the provider agencies and hearing about the case and the agencies can say what services they can offer services to help that may not be offered as of yet. This would help formulate the team and make a plan at this meeting. Last meeting was two weeks ago and there were no referrals. Next meeting is this Friday and there are two referrals.

There is a Systems of Care Summit that is being held in Albany in mid-June. Seneca County has a strong team that is going, there is Bob Ritter, Olivia McKelvey from Glove House, Jen Melini from DHS, Andrew Rude from Public Health, Tammy Anhorn – parent representative, and Joe Pantigrossi who is Director of Schools(?) project.

Brenda Black – Mental Health – A quarterly report was submitted. Current units of service there were 7788 in this quarter, the clinic provide 3128 telehealth services, and 4660 in person services. There were 1763 children services. The clinic currently has 1427 clients. Patients admitted between Feb and April was 187. The clinic continues to offer DBT group conducted by Sharon Hall and Dual Focus group is conducted by David Lee. Michael Alessio came in to do a presentation during a clinical meeting through zoom on work and recovery. The clinic offered a training on Vicarious Trauma and Compassion Fatigue for staff. The clinic is looking to help the staff with wellness and burnout. The Wellness committee once a month setting up picnics for the staff and different wellness projects to do with staff. Ryan Chiropractic has been asked to come in and do a mindfulness group with staff and there are a couple other projects developing.

The clinic continues to experience a high number of crisis calls weekly, higher needs in the schools and higher crisis with the children, increased caseloads. Covid continues to impact the staff and clients.

The clinic welcomes Margaret Cunningham to the clinic, she will be working in both the South Seneca Elementary School district and the Ovid Clinic. Nicole Paonessa and Rebecca Reed both obtained their LCSW's and have been promoted to Psychiatric Social Worker II. The clinic is still looking to hire Senior Psychiatric Social Worker.

Suicide Prevention – The meeting that was to take place today was postponed.

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Sally Manning – Rackers Center – A report was submitted. Sally has been attending the System of Care Meetings, helping to facilitate a parent engagement workgroup. Some of the groups are trying to set up some community cafes in Seneca County for late summer or early fall, for a way to engage more parents and caregivers input for the System of Care. Working with Bob Ritter on communications with United Way and developing a social media presence. Sally, Bob and Joe Pantigrossi will be attending a Systems of Care Summit Meeting in Albany and doing a presentation. There is a continuation of grants, especially to coincide with rural communities. Sally has met with Bethany in Finger Lakes Health trying to get screenings for suicide prevention in rural counties. Sally is from Tompkins County and has been working with doctors in Tompkins County regarding rural suicide in community care and possibly be inviting people from Seneca County to attend some presentations. Rackers Center has started sharing information to primary care providers about Project Teach, a mental health resource which offers psychiatric consultation. The Suicide Prevention and Substance Abuse Coalition in Seneca County are merging.

Pat Plyter – Tammy Anhorn and Pat have been attending a NAMI basic Course in Cayuga County. Pat is merging with Cayuga County and sharing resources and will be teaching a family to family course, in hopes with someone from Ithaca to help teach as they require two people to teach. Both Tammy and Pat have gotten a lot out of the course, enjoyed the conversations, connecting with other parents from Cayuga County.

Ashley Kise – Lakeview – A quarterly report was submitted.

In August would be the next scheduled meeting, the subcommittees and CSB do not meet in August so let us schedule the next meeting in September at 4:30 prior to the ASA and CSB meetings.

Next meeting will be held September 20, 2022 @ 4:30. CSB to follow at 6:30pm.

Submitted by: L. Reynolds