

Seneca County Community Services Board

Susan Ottenweller, Chair

MH SUBCOMMITTEE

February 21, 2023

(Conducted via videoconference)

Members Present: Margaret Morse (DCS), Bob Ritter (MH), Tammy Anhorn (CSB), Maria Gigliotti (Chair), Ashley Kise (Lake View), Susan Ottenweller (MH Chair), Sally Manning (Rackers Center), Racheal Scott (Glove House), Brenda Black (MH), Jennifer Palmer (CSB), Bethany Felicita (MH Crisis Team), Jeanette Rock, Samantha VanHout (Family Counseling Service of the Finger Lakes), Nancy Bernhardt (Glove House), Dr. Joseph Lorenzetti, BettyLou Delong (Aspire Hope), John Cleere

Members Excused: Kathy Sinkiewicz, Becky Clemens (Aspire Hope),

Welcome - Meeting was called to order. Introductions made.

Public Announcements – None

Consumer Reports – None

Margaret Morse – At every quarterly meeting there will be a review of the local service plan updated every 3 months during the year. The 2024 plan is due in June, please review the plan and send an email to Margaret Morse, Maria Gigliotti and Susan Ottenweller. This would include any suggestions, or questions about the goals and strategies or any input you have for the priority areas for our community for the plan.

Family Counseling of the Finger Lakes is a new contract with Seneca County. The county passes through re-investment dollars to Family Counseling of the Finger Lakes to fund a full-time social worker with the Mobile Integration Team (MIT) that Elmira Psychiatric Center operates out of Academy Square. This team goes out in the community and does skill building, and gives support for individuals with mental health disorders, helps with minor crises, also for individuals who do not engage in services but would benefit from wrap around services and supports and additional services. This team is made up of peers and clinicians.

When Seneca County first proposed to pay for the transitional apartments which started a little over 3 years ago, were initially going to be forensic apartments. These apartments started and

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were saved for people coming out of jail with no safe housing. When the bail reform diminished, the job description changed for the case manager and for the transitional apartments. The apartments are to assist people who are transitioning from various levels of care and use them as transitional apartments.

Margaret shared that Seneca County was awarded monies to support additional Home-Based Crisis Intervention services for Seneca County. Margaret is meeting with the state to designate the mobile crisis team to provide crisis intervention services to youth and it was asked if mobile crisis would coordinate with the Home-Based Crisis Intervention program to provide direct referrals.

Margaret met with Unity House. Unity House has new staff, 5 of the staff came for a meeting and met with Margaret. There have been some changes with more work and some of those slots have been filled. Unity House will be submitting a report by the end of the week and will attend the next meeting.

Ashley Kise – Lakeview – A quarterly report was submitted. Lakeview and Seneca County are partnering together for two additional transitional apartments which are both two bedrooms each to help house families. The other transitional apartments have been steadily filled. These apartments are intended for those individuals who are experiencing homelessness, the stay can be up to 6 weeks while working on a plan for permanent housing. These individuals do need to meet with staff once a week, sometimes more frequently, to work toward their housing plan and to secure more permanent housing. The two transitional apartments are in Waterloo on Virginia St. and Washington St. The newer transitional apartments that are being pursued are in Seneca Falls. Some referrals received are for the forensic population to help them re-integrate into the community to get stable housing.

Prospect House – Crisis respite program in Canandaigua remains closed, they are trying to recruit staff. A program manager has been hired and starts at the end of April. Lakeview is hoping to re-open this summer.

Nancy Bernhart & Rachael Scott – Glove House – Glove House is contracted with Seneca County to supply HBCI (Home Based Crisis Intervention) services for youth that are in a mental health crisis. This is a high intensity program that Racheal Scott goes into the home 3 to 5 times a week for about 4 to 6 weeks. Rachael also runs a teen mental health group. Currently there are 11 youth enrolled in the teen mental health group. Rachael's caseload varies as intakes come in and cases are closed out. Primary referral source comes from the county, schools, the health homes programs, practitioners, and Bob Ritter (Coordinator of Children Services). A

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youth would qualify when they are in a mental health crisis at that time, and the goal is to keep the youth out of placement by having the intervention services.

Sally Manning – Rackers Center – A report was submitted. Rackers center is contracted with Seneca County to provide ongoing consultation around children’s mental health issues. Currently the contract is around supporting System of Care issues. Bob Ritter is the coordinator of Seneca Cares, System of Care in Seneca County for children in mental health. Sally helps support the work that Bob does by facilitating a family engagement work group. This creates an opportunity for families, caregivers and parents of youth with mental health needs to be involved in the System of Care. The second part of the contract is around suicide prevention. Primarily around suicide prevention for children and youth and has expanded to integrate a zero-suicide approach to the national model in hope of preventing all suicide in all populations. A lot of the work with Suicide prevention and Prevention NY and leaders in zero suicide with behavioral health and medical health. Our current work is connected with primary care providers as well as mental health providers. Sally is involved with providing suicide prevention training for Seneca County, Youth Mental Health first aid training, ASIST and Safe Talk training. Part of the effort to help children is training staff. Joe Fantigrossi through the community school was able to train a lot more people in Seneca County. This is a continuum of supporting the staff who are also dealing with a lot of emotional health challenges in the school system, not just social workers, but teachers, bus drivers and assistants.

Susan Ottenweller – read an editorial from a major newspaper about adolescent mental health and how much originates in the schools and how many schools do not take it seriously, do not have internal processes for investigating, do not involve police. How is this coordinated with the schools?

Jennifer Palmer - There has been a huge growth over the past 5 to 7 years. There is coordination with outside mental health providers, reaching out to families, support that goes into the home, and constant collaboration with law enforcement if there is any imminent worry of a student. This is in terms of this area, not sure where the article was published from. There is legal procedures and protocols along with dignity for all students act that requires that there is antibullying protocols in place and do things with positive behavioral support and sources of strength.

Betty Lou Delong - Aspire Hope – A report was submitted. Aspire Hope provides Seneca County a family peer advocate (Betty Lou) and a family engagement specialist that works with the county contracted families. Betty Lou works with the CFTSS (Children & Family Treatment and Support Services) families. The same services are offered to both contracted and CFTS programs. The family peer support services include parent and care giver educational and

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recreational events, leadership opportunities, conferences and trainings, advocacy, information referral for peer support, waiver contract services which is HCBS, peer to peer support groups and family to family support. Aspire Hope also has a youth program which is designed to empower young people from ages 13 to 21 to engage in healthy choices. Aspire Hope has support groups that are held on the 4th Monday of every month in Waterloo in person and a virtual meeting that will be starting the first or second Monday of the month. This meeting is open to anyone that is enrolled in the programs.

There is a group for adults that is held at the DIC through the Southern Tier Transformation Program.

Brenda Black – Mental Health – A quarterly report was submitted. Brenda is the Program Director of Clinical Services for Seneca County Community Counseling Center. The clinic provides outpatient individual therapy, there are group therapies, addictions treatment as part of an Integrated Services Program. Brenda supervises the Mental Health clinic. Tammy Orlopp supervises the Addictions clinic. Bethany Felicita supervises the Crisis team.

Seneca County Community Counseling Center is the county operated behavioral health clinic. It provides comprehensive outpatient mental health and substance abuse services. The clinic is licensed by the Office of Mental Health (OMH) and the Office of Alcohol and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS). The clinic also provides addiction treatment and mental health treatment to children, ages 4 and up and adults there is no age limit. The clinic has a full Medication Assisted Treatment Program (MAT) for substance abuse including Suboxone and Vivitrol. The only MAT not provided is Methadone. The clinic provides open access or immediate access to services.. The clinic prioritizes anyone coming out of the hospital or jail will get psychiatric appointments quickly.. Brenda oversees the Domestic Violence Program. The clinic can bill for peer services in the OMH clinic. Prior to OMH billing the clinic was able to provide these services through the integrated services and now can bill straight out of Article 31.

Staff openings: Senior Psychiatric Social Worker
Mental Health Clinical Therapist
1 Support staff

Bob Ritter – Children Services – A quarterly report was submitted. Bob is the Coordinator of Children Services and focuses on youth. One of Bob's functions is CSPOA – Children Single Point of Access. A while ago any kind of services for a child needed to go before the SPOA committee, this is no longer the case. In about 2019, anyone can make a referral to anybody. This created a lot of confusion. For example, if a school social worker is working with a child and knows the child could benefit from additional support but not sure exactly what or from where, Bob takes that burden away from them. All referrals can be made directly to Bob, and he will contact the

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family, asks questions about insurance, what the issues are and will advise them on what services there are for their child or children and will link them to those services and makes the subsequent referrals. Bob also works with the Systems of Care, where services should be family driven, youth oriented.

Bethany Felicita – Crisis Response Team – Bethany came on board for the Crisis Team January 2022. The crisis team is almost fully staffed. There is a targeted date for mid-March for the crisis team to expand services to be 24/7. This would provide 24/7 coverage on-site or supplemental on call. The information will be sent out to the community partners to know when the crisis team will be fully operational. The crisis team does filter calls from community members through 988. The crisis team is contracted through them. Marketing information is almost complete, waiting for approval from our lifeline partners. The goal with this is to get the crisis brochures and business cards out to law enforcement agencies, school districts, physician offices to get into the hands of those who may need the crisis services. Bethany has been to some of the schools to provide in-services to the staff to learn about services and what the crisis team can offer. The crisis team is trying to be as accessible as possible to everyone. 988 is the number to give out to the community. There is a direct number to get to the crisis team without having to go through lifeline or the front desk staff at the clinic.

Bethany oversees the clinic's behavioral health wellness program. Part of the grant is mental wellness support for clinicians. Bethany plans a variety of wellness activities for staff to participate in, along with monthly potluck lunches, this week the clinic is doing "Beat the Winter Blahs", where the staff is wearing different themed shirts for the week. Brenda and Tammy along with Bethany are coordinating a lot of activities to support the mental wellness of our staff.

Samantha Vanhout – Family Counseling of the Finger Lakes – FCFL has offices located in Canandaigua, Newark, Geneva, and Seneca Falls. Samantha supervises the co-located therapist through the CAC of the Finger Lakes, mobile integration team member, once it is filled, a therapist at Bivona Child Advocacy Center in Monroe County, and two therapists contracted through Monroe County and DHS. FLFC has a therapist in the Seneca Falls schools. FLFC is working on filling the social worker position at the Seneca Falls location, which is a split position, and they are divided between Seneca Falls and Geneva. Family Counseling of the Finger Lakes plays an important role in the continuum of care for the Seneca County Community. FCFL is referred to regularly, provides marriage and family counseling, focuses on specific trauma work, and coordinates with child advocacy.

Jeanette Rock – DIC – A quarterly report was submitted.

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Next meeting will be held May 16, 2023 @ 5:00. CSB to follow at 6:30pm.

Submitted by: L. Reynolds