

# Seneca County Community Services Board

Stanley Hatch, Chair

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## OPWDD SUBCOMMITTEE

January 17, 2023

(Conducted via videoconference)

**Members Present:** Stanley Hatch (chair), Margaret Morse (DCS), Rose Palmieri, Amanda Bishi (OPWDD), Kathy Sinkiewicz, Jennifer Clark (person Centered Services), Kaitlyn Laskoski, Denise Vreeland (Mozaic), Susan Ottenweller, Joseph Lorenzetti

**Absent:** Heather O'Connell (Mozaic),

**Introductions Made.** Meeting was called to order. Motion to accept secretary minutes from October 18, 2022. Motion to accept initiated by Kaitlyn Laskoski and seconded by Kathy Sinkiewicz. No discussion. All in favor. None opposed. Motion Carries.

**Margaret Morse** – DCS – The reports from the different agencies that have the areas covering the plan will be added to the plan after each meeting and reported to the full Community Services Board.

When the public health emergency ends, there will be certain flexibilities that are starting to transition back to pre-covid.

Seneca County is the first county in New York to offer CIT training to correction officers. The state reached out to Kaitlyn specifically to be able to access her curriculum so they can use it in other counties across the state.

It has been discussed in the this subcommittee and the CSB meeting the frustration that is experienced with those individuals, particularly youth, who are having significant psychiatric experiences and associated behaviors who need to be hospitalized to be safe. The hospitals are stating 'it's behavioral' so these children are not hospitalized. Many cases there is co-morbidity between developmental disabilities and a mental health disorder. The kids are sometimes not meeting criteria for OPWDD services. This happens with adults as well. Unfortunately, if an adult was not diagnosed as a youth, it is nearly impossible to get these services as an adult. The process is not easy, and kids often fall through the cracks. It is more difficult for kids to access services for OPWDD than it is for other services offered. Some of these kids would benefit from residential services or habilitation services or other offerings through OPWDD and are just not appropriate for any settings in the OMH system.

At the local level, where the DCS and subcommittees have control with the local planning, we need to make sure the systems are working together as much as possible and improving skill sets of clinicians to work with the IDD population so regardless of who the therapists are treating they have adequate

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skills and knowledge to treat the individual or knowledge of how to access services. This is the best we can do at the local service level.

**Denise Vreeland** – Mozaic – A report was distributed. Denise is the Vice President of Services, COO at Mozaic. Denise oversees all of the services in Seneca County that are provided to individuals with IDD except the state operated residences.

1083 Day Hab was re-opened in December 2022 and slowly adding more individuals as more staff are hired. The Day Hab closed March 17, 2020 due to Covid 19. Some individuals were receiving services as the day hubs were combined on Clinton Street.

In December the starting wage for DSP's was increased for day services and residential. There has been a significant increase in applications and more staff has been hired.

Mozaic staff still wears a mask when in close contact when supporting an individual. It is encouraged for individuals to wear a mask. There is no requirement for individuals to wear masks to attend program.

**Jennifer Clark** - Person Centered Services – A report was distributed. Jennifer is the Regional Director of Care Coordination at Person Centered Services in the Finger Lakes Region. This covers Ontario, Seneca, Cayuga, Monroe Counties and has expanded to cover Livingston, Genesee, Wyoming and Orleans Counties.

Person Centered Services and Prime Care are the providers for Seneca County residents. Most individuals do get services from Person Centered Services.

The Transition Services Virtual Expo is for families, individuals or anyone who is gathering information about folks who are moving into the transitioning services.

PCS are preparing for the public health emergency to end, life plan meetings are in person and are trying to operate to meet the pre-covid guidelines.

**Amanda Bishi**– OPWDD – A report was distributed. Amanda works with NYS OPWDD and she oversees the housing services for Region 1. Region 1 consists of 17 counties of western NY.

Staffing continues to be an issue. There are different incentives in place to help boost the staffing. The cost of living adjustment (COLA) has come out and hope that this will impact the providers and their rates with additional resources. This is back dated to April 1, 2022. These retro payments should have started in the middle of December.

CSIDD is the old NY Start program that offers intensive supports. Region 1 is on hold for accepting new referrals. This is due to low staffing. There is hope that this will change soon.

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The federal government has extended the public health emergency to approximately May 11, 2023. Some individuals deemed eligible during COVID due to flexibilities will no longer be eligible for services. Individuals that are no longer eligible will continue with current services until the public health emergency ends and at that time they will be issued termination notices.

There are a lot of preparation for the CCO's with regards to the public health emergency ending. Where they will need to transition back to pre-covid times. Paying close attention to the dates and extensions.

**Kaitlyn Laskoski** – Law Enforcement Center – A report was distributed. Kaitlyn is the Mental Health supervisor at the Seneca County Corrections facility and the Seneca County AOT (Assisted Outpatient Treatment) coordinator. AOT is the highest level of mental health treatment there is in the Seneca County. Persons have to meet certain eligibility, including having had a number of violent offenses or engagement with law enforcement, hospitalizations.

There are some barriers for some individuals with developmental and how they are accessing the prison system, this is still happening. Kaitlyn is an instructor and works with correctional officers at the academy and the Finger Lakes Law Enforcement academy, she instructs on effective communication strategies and classification barriers for people with developmental disabilities or mental illness.

Kaitlyn has created/modified the 5 day CIT curriculum version to 2 ½ days for correctional officers. Within this there will be an effective communication strategy and classifications consideration with the developmental disability piece. This will be held in March. The yearly CIT will be offered in November 2023. Kaitlyn, Margaret and Undersheriff Cleere will be exploring having more probation officers, 911 dispatchers and first responders join the training. The goal is to have all police officers trained. Some modifications will need to be made to the curriculum depending on which first responders are in the training.

The LEC has had MAT (Medicated Assisted Treatment) in the jail since 2015 MAT has just become state mandated and Kaitlyn still has correctional facilities asking for policy and procedures that she has.

A review of the 2023 plan was discussed.

Motion to adjourn was made by Kaitlyn Laskoski.

Next meeting will be held April 18, 2023 @ 5:00pm. CSB to follow at 6:30pm.

Submitted by: L. Reynolds