

Seneca County Community Services Board

Stanley Hatch, Chair

OPWDD SUBCOMMITTEE

April 18, 2023

(Conducted via videoconference)

Members Present: Stanley Hatch (chair), Rose Palmieri, Amanda Bishi (OPWDD), Susan Ottenweller, Joseph Lorenzetti

Absent: Heather O'Connell (Mozaic), Margaret Morse (DCS), Kathy Sinkiewicz, Jennifer Clark (person Centered Services), Kaitlyn Laskoski, Denise Vreeland (Mozaic)

Introductions Made. Meeting was called to order. Motion to accept secretary minutes from January 17, 2023. Motion to accept initiated by Rose Palmieri and seconded by Amanda Bishi, No discussion. All in favor. None opposed. Motion Carries.

Amanda Bishi– OPWDD – A report was distributed. OPWDD is still waiting for the state budget to be approved. There is a need for direct support, workforce that is a primary goal and the state continues to look at resources for this. Bonuses are being rolled out, along with a Cost-of-living Adjustment (COLA) being built in.

CSIDD –Crisis Services for Individuals with Intellectual and/or Developmental Disabilities - Previously known as the NY start program, which is an intensive whole system crisis approach and is subcontracted outside of OPWDD by ARC of Chemung Schuyler in region 1. It is essentially a therapeutic crisis program. CSIDD goes into the homes to link persons to services, this is not a direct service. This does not provide respite or behavior support but is going to provide an assessment and link people with services they need or taking them to the hospital. This is available in Seneca County but was not utilized very much. CSIDD is working on staffing and being able to provide staff with more people in their capacity.

The Home and Community Based Services Waiver (HCBS) is a funding stream that is utilized under OPWDD for people to access Medicaid. Medicaid is an income-based program and there are guidelines for eligibility. The waiver waves income due to a person having a developmental disability for them to access Medicaid dollars for services under the OPWDD system. There is an enrollment process and OPWDD works closely with the county the person resides in for Medicaid to notifies them that they have been approved and they meet the OPWDD criteria and they get enrolled in Medicaid through the HCBS waiver to access the OPWDD services and receive Medicaid billing for those services. These agreements are constantly being looked at and modified to make it work with the language.

Seneca County Community Services Board

Stanley Hatch, Chair

Housing strategy – OPWDD received 4 applications under the second round and supported two of the projects for 12 potential new affordable housing units. There are no specifics yet to where these sites will be. The housing updates are 2 separate pieces. There were monies put out for integrated supported housing and projects related to that. There were also monies put out for technology and unique ways to sustain people in community and independent settings. This could be for different software programs for people. There were several ways for the agency to use this funding and apply for it to assist and provide extra support within a home to help make it more sustainable for someone. This is for independent settings and those individuals would get a housing subsidy and they would be living independently, not a certified setting with staff attached. These are all independent apartments where OPWDD provides a housing subsidy to offset the cost of their rent and any additional support they need from OPWDD services. For the integrated housing projects, OPWDD aligns with an agency and a builder in the community. This is what these projects are. Of the 12 proposals, two were funded and the builders created the apartment complexes, and it is indicated in their application how many units are specific for people with developmental disabilities. The funding to live in those units would come through the housing subsidy through a separate piece.

OPWDD can provide provisional eligibility up to the age of 7, and by their 8th birthday the permanent eligibility is determined. The rule defines more clarification on OPWDD's eligibility and what meets those criteria. This is not taking anything away but adding more clarification.

Person Centered Services is celebrating a 5th anniversary and a celebration will be held at each location. Details to come.

Plans are in place in case Covid comes back around and OPWDD can convert back to telehealth.

Stanley Hatch on Behalf of 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.

Jennifer Clark - Person Centered Services – A report was distributed.

Kaitlyn Laskoski – Law Enforcement Center – A report was distributed.

The concerns during this meeting are the upcoming budget and what will be covered.

A review of the 2023 plan was discussed. The 2024 Plan has been approved.

Seneca County Community Services Board

Stanley Hatch, Chair

Motion to adjourn was made by Susan Ottenweller and seconded by Joseph Lorenzetti.

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

Submitted by: L. Reynolds