



Niagara County Community Services Board
 Minutes
 Regular Meeting
 Date: Monday – March 23, 2026
 Time: 6:00 pm

LOCATION: Niagara County Department of Mental Health – 475 South Transit Street, Ste. 500
 Lockport, NY 14094

ATTENDANCE:

	PRESENT	EXCUSED
Dr. Annette Dobrasz, Board President	X	
Robin Stevens, 1 st Board VP, 1 st Term	X	
Kelly Biehls, 2 nd Board VP, 1 st Term	X	
Stephanie Donovan, Board Member		X
Ronald Barstys, PhD, Board Member	X via WebEx	
Suzanne Diez, Board Member		X
Richard Abbott (Leg.), Board Member		X
Betsy Farkas, Board Member		X
Donald Jablonski, Board Member		X
James Muehlbauer, Board Member	X	
<u>Niagara County Mental Health Administration</u>		
Laura Kelemen, LCSW-R, NCDMH Director	X	
Myrla Gibbons Doxey, LMFT, NCDMH Deputy Director	X	
Kimberly Hubert-Bickel, NCDMH Confidential Assistant	X	
Cindi Wilkins, NCDMH Fiscal Administrator	X	
Guest - Gary Lisowski, Esq (Asst. County Atty for MH)	X	
Guest - Christopher Bopst, Esq (Asst. County Atty)	X	
Guest – Bethany DesSoye-Nichter, FSC Starpoint	X	
Guest – Michael Tambroni, NTCSD Director of Student Services	X	
Guest – Brian Farrell, Starpoint CSD Director of Special Programs	X	
Guest – Lisa Schrader, Deputy Superintendent Lockport Schools	X	
Guest – Robyn Krueger, Community Missions CEO/President	X	
Guest – Melissa Walter (Horizon)	X via Conference Call	

1) **Dr. Annette Dobrasz, Board President, called the Community Services Board (CSB) Meeting to order at 6:05 PM.**

2) **Meeting Minutes:**

Kelly Biehls motioned to approve the February 23, 2026 Minutes as presented, Robin Stevens seconded the motion; the minutes were unanimously approved by the Board.

3) **Membership Review**

a. Membership Review –

- No new Board of Director(s) applications received.

b. Sub-committee Review –

- The following applicants were reviewed for subcommittee membership:
 - G. Joshua Anderson – Alcoholism & Substance Abuse Subcommittee
 - Kevin Burgess – Mental Health Subcommittee
 - Jenna Genova – Mental Health Subcommittee
 - Timothy Deeks – Mental Health Subcommittee

Motion to recommend all applicants to the Legislature made by Kelly Biehls, seconded by Robin Stevens. All in favor; none opposed. Motion carried.

4) **Director's Report**

➤ **Correspondence – Review by Director:**

- Letters, Memorandums & E-mails:
 - Correspondence listed on separate page, attached

➤ ***Certificate of Need (CON) / Prior Approval Reviews (PAR)**

*CON – No new business

*EzPar –

- **Community Missions Inc. Canal View Community Residence – Capital Project**
 - Presentation provided by Robin Kruger, President/CEO.
 - Project includes conversion of shared bedrooms into:
 - 8 single bedrooms and 2 double bedrooms
 - Rationale: Increased demand for private living space.
 - OMH capital funding approved.
 - Temporary relocation required during construction:
 - Residents to be moved to East View location (ADA accessible).
 - Estimated project timeline: 7–9 months (anticipated start April/May).
 - Vendor not yet selected; architect currently bidding the project.
 - Discussion included safety considerations and square footage (~95 sq. ft.).

Motion to approve EZ-PAR and temporary relocation made by Jamie Muehlbauer, seconded by Kelly Biehls. All in favor; none opposed. Motion carried.

- **Horizon Health Services** (agency representative Melissa Walter joined via phone for North Tonawanda application)
 - **Establish a School-Based Satellite Clinic at North Tonawanda Intermediate School**
 - Presentation by Deputy Director Myrta Gibbons Doxey and Michael Tambroni (Director of Student Services, NTCSD).
 - District is seeking to establish a school-based satellite clinic through Horizon Health Services at the Intermediate School. Focus on expanding access to services to address student behavioral health needs.
 - Emphasis on meeting student needs within the school setting. There are no children's clinics located in N. Tonawanda and transportation is a barrier for some families to access services.

- M. Tambroni shared that although BestSelf Behavioral Health has a school-based satellite operating certificate for this location after the middle school relocated to a new location and this location became the intermediate school, the agency has not provided services at this location. The district’s intent is not to have two separate agencies operating out of this location.

Motion to approve made by Robin Stevens, seconded by Jamie Muehlbauer. All in favor; none opposed. Motion carried.

- **Establish a School-Based Satellite Clinic at North Tonawanda Drake Elementary School**
Items tabled/held for further review.
- **Establish a School-Based Satellite Clinic at Spruce Elementary School**
Items tabled/held for further review.
- **Establish a School-Based Satellite Clinic at Starpoint School District Family Support Center**
Presentation by Deputy Director Myrla Gibbons Doxey and Brian Farrell and Bethany DesSoye-Nichter.

District is seeking to establish a School-Based Satellite clinic through Horizon Health Services at the Starpoint CSD Family Support Center. The District recently established a Family Support Center which can be accessed at the front of the high school building. Focus on expanding access to family and student supports, including mental health treatment, across the district.

Starpoint CSD surveyed families in May 2025 and results support the need and interest in mental health school-based satellite clinic services.

Board raised concern with psychiatric services only being accessible through Horizon’s Pine Avenue location in Niagara Falls, NY when in-person services are necessary verses telehealth due to distance from Lockport for families with transportation difficulty. M. Gibbons Doxey noted that although Horizon’s has a location in Lockport, mental health and psychiatric services are only available for individuals 18 and older at that location.

Motion to approve made by Jamie, seconded by Robin. All in favor; none opposed. Motion carried.

- **Niagara County Department of Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services – Niagara County Counseling & Wellness Services**
 - Presentation by Deputy Director Myrla Gibbons Doxey and Deputy Superintendent of Lockport Schools Lisa Schrader.

District is seeking to establish a School-Based Satellite Clinic at Emmet Belknap Intermediate School through Niagara County Department of Mental Health. Current provider has been unable to staff the location since the Fall 2025 and therefore student needs are not being met. The District will be seeking to end the SBS clinic services with this provider.

The District reports a positive working relationship with NCDMH and the established SBS provided at the high school are going well.

NCDMH NCCWS plans to utilize the same clinician providing services at the High School to also provide service at the Intermediate School on a different day.

As the Intermediate School will be closed during the summer 2026 for renovations, students and their families can be served at the Clinics main site, or via telehealth as appropriate.

Motion to approve made by Robin Stevens, seconded by Kelly Biehls. All in favor; none opposed. Motion carried.

Informational –

- **Administrative Action # 11886** – Horizon Health Services School-Based Satellite Closure at Gaskill Prep School in the Niagara Falls School District effective 4/1/26 due to limited referrals over its operating time and referrals have decreased to zero in 2026. Horizon reports it has had many contacts with the school attempting to engage families, which have not resulted in referrals. Gaskill has a robust social work program supporting families and is amenable to this closure. Families also have the ability to work directly with Horizon at our Pine CCBHC location, which is in the same community as the school within walking distance.
- **Administrative Action # 11879** – Niagara County Department of Mental Health’s – Niagara County Counseling & Wellness Services Lockport High School-Based Satellite Clinic change in operating hours to include add additional hours by appointment.
- **Administrative Action # 11880** - Niagara County Department of Mental Health’s – Niagara County Counseling & Wellness Services Lockport and Niagara Falls Clinics change in operating hours add additional hours by appointment.
- **Administrative Action #11916** – Spectrum Human Services Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) Team Niagara County Office relocation from 800 Main Street, Niagara Falls, NY to 2201 Pine Avenue, Niagara Falls, NY to be in a single site location and not a multiuse building. There is additional space which will allow more space for the team, larger waiting room and group room, and easier access as it is a one-story space. Anticipated effective date 4/1/26.

➤ **Corporate Compliance**

- New CSB Member Orientation Documents – K. Hubert-Bickel provided new CSB Member J Muehlbauer a copy of the Compliance Plan and obtained other required Compliance Documentation for completion.

➤ **Annual Report – Court** – Deferred due to time constraints. Will be presented at the next meeting.

Program/Systems Updates

Director, Laura Kelemen provided an update regarding recent developments at Save the Michaels of the World.

- Correspondence received from OASAS indicating termination of contract effective March 29, 2026, following audit related concerns.
- Meetings held with OASAS and CEO Jessica Goff.
- Initial plans to maintain Newfane Residential Reintegration, harm reduction and case management services were discussed.
- Organization has engaged a dissolution attorney and is exploring next steps.

5) President’s Report - No new business.

6) Executive Session – Executive Session began at 7:30pm, ending at 8:03pm for NCDMH Compliance Program First Quarter 2026 Report Out.

Kelly Biehls motioned to enter into Executive Session; James Muehlbauer seconded the motion. Executive session began at 7:30 pm.

Kelly Biehls motioned to adjourn the Executive Session; James Muehlbauer seconded the motion. Executive session adjourned at 8:03 pm.

7) Meeting Adjournment

Kelly Biehls motioned to adjourn the meeting; James Muehlbauer seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:09 pm.

Future CSB Meeting Date: April 20, 2026

***Voting Items**

Distributed Items at Meeting:

- a. Agenda
- b. *CSB Draft Meeting Minutes for February 23, 2026
- c. Current 2026 CSB Membership Roster
- d. *CSB Subcommittee applicant review

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