



Niagara County Community Services Board
Minutes
Regular Meeting
Date: Monday – June 16, 2025
Time: 6:00 pm

LOCATION: Rathke Public Safety Training Facility - 5574 Niagara Street Ext. Lockport, NY 14094

ATTENDANCE:

	PRESENT	EXCUSED
Burt Marshall, Board President	X	
Annette Dobrasz, EdD, 1 st Board VP	X	
Stephanie Donovan, 2 nd Board VP	X	
Thomas Gerbasi, MD, Board Member	X	
Candace Butcher, Board Member		X
Ronald Barstys, PhD, Board Member		X
Suzanne Diez, Board Member	X	
Richard Abbott, Board Member		X
Betsy Farkas, Board Member		X
Donald Jablonski, Board Member		X
Rev. Francis Kadryna, Board Member		X
Robin Stevens, Board Member	X	
Kelly Biehls, 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	
Nick Kester, LMSW – NCDMH Senior Planner	X	
Christopher Bopst, County Attorney	X	
Jeremy Hitt, Horizon Village	X	

1) **Burt Marshall, Board President, called the Community Services Board (CSB) Meeting to order at 6:08 PM.**

2) **Meeting Minutes**

- A. Dr. Annette Dobraz motioned to approve the May 19, 2025 Minutes as presented, Dr. Thomas Gerbasi seconded the motion; the minutes were unanimously approved by the Board.
- B. Informational – CSB Individual Subcommittee Meeting Minutes (draft) from May 29, 2025. Deputy Director Gibbons Doxey recapped the highlights in the minutes.

3) **Membership Review**

- A. Membership Review – nothing new to report.
- B. Sub-committee Review –
 - Acknowledgement of Dr. Annette Dobraz and Robin Stevens for efforts in recruiting prospective subcommittee candidates.
 - It was clarified that subcommittee applicants do not usually go through a formal interview process.
 - Robin presented Mary W. as an applicant. Mary works at Empower, has a sister with a developmental disability, and runs a nonprofit, *Friends United of WNY*.
 - Motion to recommend Mary for membership made by Dr. Annette Dobraz, seconded by Stephanie Donovan and unanimously approved by the board.
 - Jay Mapstone is completing his second consecutive 4-year term on the PWDD subcommittee and, per bylaws, must now take time off.
 - Jeff Patterson has been off the board's PWDD subcommittee since 2022. Robin Stevens will follow up with a call.
 - All members were encouraged to consider and recommend additional candidates.
 - Application process for subcommittees discussed. Director, Laura Kelemen and Confidential Assistant, Kimberly Hubert-Bickel to coordinate.
 - Quarterly meetings continue: two individual subcommittee meetings and two joint subcommittee meetings with plan to continue to hold at Orleans/Niagara BOCES Sanborn Conference Center.

4) **Director's Report**

- Director Kelemen noted highlighted Correspondences since last meeting.
 - Letters, Memorandums & E-mails: Correspondence listed on separate page, attached - there were no questions from CSB members.
- **Certificate of Need (CON) / Prior Approval Reviews (PAR)**
 - ***CON – NYS OASAS CON #254055 Horizon Health Services Aurora Village and Delta Village Bed Expansion**

Deputy Director Gibbons Doxey presented the application (Jeremy Hitt from Horizon Village was present to give additional explanation and answer questions):

Aurora Village (women's program) & Delta Village (young adult program) Bed Expansion: Request to increase bed capacity at both facilities from 25 to 28 beds. Ample space exists for the expansion. Horizon. Horizon reports consistently requesting from NYS OASAS a temporary increase in capacity due to full occupancy and long waitlists. Proposal to permanently increase to

28 beds to avoid repeated field office requests. Average wait time is currently 21 days; some cases exceed 45 days.

Motion to approve made by Robin Stevens, seconded by Dr. Annette Dobraz, and passed unanimously.

- ***CON – NYS OASAS CON #254056 Horizon Health Services** – Sanborn Satellite Clinic, request to move the Satellite site from the Pine Avenue Niagara Falls, NY main site to the Niagara Falls Boulevard, Tonawanda, NY main site.

Deputy Director Gibbons Doxey presented the application. Horizon Health Services Sanborn satellite clinic is currently a satellite of the Pine Avenue, Niagara Falls, NY clinic. Because the Pine Avenue clinic will be converting to a CCBHCV on 7/1/25, the Sanborn clinic must be changed to become a satellite of a different Horizon Health Services clinic, as it will not be part of the CCBHC. The agency proposes to change the satellite to be hosted by the Niagara Falls Boulevard clinic location, which borders Erie and Niagara Counties and will be able to continue to support the satellite with no change or disruption in services.

Dr. Annette Dobraz motioned to approve, seconded by Dr. Thomas Gerbasi, and passed unanimously.

- *** EzPar** – No items submitted for review this meeting.

Informational –

- Prior Consult completed between NCDMH and Horizon Health Services for the bed expansion at Aurora Village (women's program).
 - Prior Consult completed between NCDMH and Horizon Health Services for the bed expansion at Delta Village (young adult program)
 - Prior Consult completed between NCDMH and Horizon Health Services for the change in Sanborn NYS OASAS licensed satellite clinic assignment to another Horizon clinic
- **Corporate Compliance** – Second Quarter 2025 Compliance Program Report. Reviewed during Executive Session.
 - **Programs / System Updates**

NCDMH Local Services Plan 2024-2027, 2026 Update Goals and Objectives presented by **Deputy Director Gibbons Doxey and Nick Kester, LMSW – NCDMH Senior Planner**

Goals within the plan outline:

- Timely Access to Care
- Expanded Access to Treatment
- Increase Access to Housing, Crisis Service Continuum of Care
- Cross-System Services
- Workforce Recruitment and Retention
- Expand Prevention Activities
- Tackle the Opioid / Drug Epidemic
- Address Forensic Concerns/730 Competencies

Motion to accept the Local Services Plan Update made by Kelly Biehls, seconded by Stephanie Donovan, and approved.

- **Director Kelemen discussed the "730 Bill" / Criminal Procedure Law (CPL) Article 730, which establishes the procedures for determining a criminal defendant's competency to stand trial.**
Increase in referrals and associated costs.
 - Team evaluating trends in age, gender, timing, and judicial practices.
 - Exploration of local solutions occurring while awaiting possible state reform.

Shaw Relocation – NYS Office of Mental Health (OMH) conducted a tour and gave verbal approval. Awaiting final security system quote to proceed.

5) President’s Report – Nothing to report.

Executive Sessions – Executive Session began at 7:04pm, ending at 7:32pm for NCDMH Second Quarter 2025 Compliance Program Report Out.

Dr. Annette Dobrasz motioned to enter into Executive Session; Stephanie Donovan seconded the motion. Executive session began at 7:04 pm.

Dr. Annette Dobrasz motioned to adjourn the Executive Session; Stephanie Donovan seconded the motion. Executive session adjourned at 7:32 pm.

6) Meeting Adjournment

Dr. Annette Dobrasz motioned to adjourn the meeting; Stephanie Donovan seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm.

Next CSB Meeting Date: Monday, August 4, 2025 at 6:00 pm (combined July & August meeting / location to be determined)

***voting items**

Distributed Items at Meeting:

- A. Agenda
- B. *CSB Draft Meeting Minutes for May 19, 2025
- C. Current 2025 CSB Membership Roster

Niagara County Community Services Board
Correspondence Listing, Agenda Item 4-1 - Director’s Report
Meeting Date & Time: Monday, June 16, 2025 at 6:00 pm

A. Niagara County Community Services Board Meeting Notices:

- 1. Niagara County Community Services Board Monday, June 16, 2025 Meeting Notice - dated, June 3, 2025.
- 2. Notifications to two County Newspapers regarding June 16, 2025 Meeting scheduling Notice - dated, June 9, 2025.

B. Correspondence from Maria Torgalski, Director, Office for People with Developmental Disabilities, to Laura J. Kelemen, NCDMH Director, regarding relocation from 6828 Townline Rd to 80 Acacia Dr., dated May 1, 2025.

C. Correspondence from Maria Torgalski, Director, Office for People with Developmental Disabilities, to Laura J. Kelemen, NCDMH Director, regarding Proposal to establish a new supervised Ira Located at 7237 Townline Rd, dated May 5, 2025.

D. Correspondence from Maria Torgalski, Director, Office for People with Developmental Disabilities, to Laura J. Kelemen, NCDMH Director, regarding relocation from 4441 tonawanda Creek Rd to 7237 Townline Rd, dated May 5, 2025.

E. Correspondence from Gina Bae, Director, Office of Mental Health, to Laura J. Kelemen, NCDMH Director., regarding PAR Admin Action # 10762, dated May 15, 2025.

- F. Correspondence from Robyn Krueger, President & CEO, Community Missions, to Kate Harlock, Licensing director, OMH – WNY Field Office, regarding PIP Hanson House, dated May 27, 2025.
- G. Correspondence from Dena Holmes, Director, OMH, to Kristi Yerger ,CEO, Northpoint Council , regarding Operating Certificate # 270611250, dated May 30, 2025.
- H. Correspondence from Eric Anderson, Program Specialist 2, OMH, to Robyn Krueger, President & CEO, Community Missions, regarding PIP, dated June 6, 2025

Newspaper Articles:

1. Union Son & Journal, “Overdose deaths fell 27% last year, largest one-year decline ever seen”, by Mike Stobbe, dated 5/15/25
2. Union Son & Journal, “Community Missions unveils Lantern Project safe place”, dated 5/15/25
3. Buffalo News, “CDC reports historic decline in U.S. overdose deaths”, by Mike Stobbe, dated 5/19/25