



Niagara County Community Services Board
Minutes (Draft)
Regular Meeting
Date: Monday, May 20, 2024
Time: 6:00 pm

LOCATION: Dept. of Mental Health & Substance Abuse Administrative Offices, Shaw Building, Health Department Conference Room, 1st Floor, 5467 Upper Mountain Road, NY.

ATTENDANCE:

	PRESENT	EXCUSED
Burt Marshall, Board President	X	
Annette Dobrasz, EdD, 1 st Board VP	X-Webex	
Stephanie Donovan, 2 nd Board VP	X	
Rosamond Siegwarth, Board Member		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	
<u>Niagara County Mental Health Administration</u>		
Laura Kelemen, LCSW-R, NCDMH Director	X-Webex	
Myrla Gibbons Doxey, LMFT, NCDMH Deputy Director	X	
Lee Ann Cogar, Confidential Assistant	X	
Gillian Henry-Game, HCBS Supervisor	X	
Kristi Dierolf, Supervising Licensed Clinician	X	
Michelle Abraham, MH Outpatient Clinic Program Manager	X	
<u>Guests</u>		

1) **Burt Marshall, Board President, called the Community Services Board (CSB) Meeting to order at 6:01 PM.**

2) **Meeting Minutes**

- **Minutes for the April 13, 2024 CSB meeting.** A quorum was not present. Review and vote on April minutes during the June 2024 Meeting.

3) **Membership Review By Director Kelemen –**

- Burt Marshall notified the Board he recently sent an email to Rebecca Wydysh, Chairman of the Legislature, requesting an explanation of the delay in review and approval by the Legislature of the two CSB applicants presented in January 2024. He has not received a response.

Director Kelemen relayed that Rose Siegwath recommends the full Board send a letter to the Legislature requesting a response as to the reasoning for the delay in review and approval by the Legislature of the two CSB applicants recommended by the CSB for approval. Burt Marshall will draft a letter to send to the Legislature.

- Director Kelemen advised she recently received a phone call from CSB member Candace Butcher. Candace expressed having a very difficult time participating in Board meetings via Webex. She also has no transportation to attend the meetings in-person. She asked Laura to bring this to the Board's attention in hopes of finding a solution to this problem. Laura suggested possibly waiting for Robin Stevens to rejoin the Board in January 2025. Robin has provided transportation for Candace in the past, and this could be an answer to the problem. Burt Marshall and Director Kelemen will review the Board By Laws and try to determine if a member can take a temporary leave of absence from the Board.

- **Membership application review – None.**

4) **Director's Report**

- **Correspondence reviewed by Director Laura Kelemen.**
 - Letters, Memorandums & E-mails:
 - Correspondence listed on separate page, attached

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

***CON** – None

***EzPar** - None

Other – CCBHC Letters of Support – Director Kelemen reported there are two entities requesting support from the Board to apply for inclusion into the OMH CCBHC Demonstration program. This grant allows agencies to receive additional funding for individuals who are attending services. These funds can also help offset non-billable services. The Board agreed to support these requests. Director Kelemen will provide the language to Burt for his review and signature.

Informational – Nothing to report.

- **2023 AOT Annual Report** – Presented by Gillian Henry-Game, HCBS Supervisor.
- **2023 Clinics Annual Report** – Presented by Kristi Dierolf, Supervising Licensed Clinician.

- **Corporate Compliance** - Provided by Deputy Director Myrla Gibbons Doxey - We continue to monitor the compliance program, provide ongoing training, familiarizing staff with policies and procedures. We are also working with our new nursing staff through the orientation process.
- **Programs / System Updates, provided by Deputy Director Gibbons Doxey and Director Kelemen–**
 - **Hillside Children’s Center – Children and Family Treatment and Support (CFTS) Services** - We recently received an email from Hillside Children’s Center notifying the Department of their discontinuation of all CFTS services with a target date of June 28th for closure. They have been struggling with staffing and fiscal viability. Access to services for children and youth is very challenging.
 - **Child and Family Services Youth Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) Program** – We were advised Child and Family Services placed a pause on any new referrals for May, and will need to advise us about June as well, due to staffing issues (position vacancies). This program has also struggled significantly with staffing since inception.
 - **Best Self School-Based Clinic Satellite Status Update** – Deputy Director Gibbons Doxey reports she believes the Niagara Falls (Bloneva Bond) site received conditional approved, but she will need to verify. North Tonawanda - Drake Elementary site has been slow to start according to Best Self reports and the District was looking to have a site at a different school location instead. Best Self inquired about a transition in their license to another location, but they are unable to do so per the NYS OMH. The agency would need to close the current approved location and/or submit a new application for a new location. The agency is currently working with the district regarding options. The two Lockport School District school-based satellite clinics are now up and running and serving individuals, but not to the capacity they originally anticipated.
 - **Cazenovia Recovery Services** – Director Kelemen reported that Cazenovia has met with the Department two times related to fiscal problems with their Steps to Success Program. This is a reintegration program providing housing and support for those transitioning from in-patient substance abuse settings, and re-entering society. This program continues to operate in the “red”. The Department has been working with Cazenovia moving excess revenue around, but this then creates a problem in other programs. The property owners have also recently raised their rent. Although the rent will be covered, staffing costs will not be covered. Director Kelemen is working with NYS OASAS trying to find funding for the program. Housing is a critical need, and we need to explore all avenues to help this program remain viable. Cazenovia is only looking for funding to support staffing costs at this time.

5) **President’s Report** – Nothing to report.

6) **Meeting Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm.

Next CSB Meeting Date: June 17, 2024

Webex meeting recording: CSB Meeting-20240520 2316-1

Recording link:

<https://niagaracounty.webex.com/niagaracounty/ldr.php?RCID=48cbf7a9c3234f56fd2319f2f92f620a>

Password: MepwX9iX