



Niagara County Community Services Board
Minutes
Regular Meeting
Date: Monday, September 16, 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	
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
Rev. Francis Kadryna, 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	
Lee Ann Cogar, Confidential Assistant	X	
Cindi Wilkins, Fiscal Administrator	X	
Michelle Abraham, MH Outpatient Clinic Program Manager	X	
<u>Guests</u>		
Katie Burbee, Horizon Health	X	

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

2) **Meeting Minutes**

- Minutes for the August 5, 2024 CSB meeting

Dr. Thomas Gerbasi motioned to approve the minutes as presented, Dr. Annette Dobrasz seconded the motion; the minutes for August 5, 2024 were approved by the Board.

3) **Membership Review:** Director Kelemen commented if members have any new recommendations; please bring them to her attention, and we can send them an application.

4) **Director's Report**

- **Correspondence was reviewed by Laura Kelemen, Director.**

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

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

***CON** – None

***EzPar** –

Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center – Application to close the Continuing Day Treatment Program. It has been determined the program is no longer viable. The program is closing effective October 1, 2024. The agency anticipates repurposing the space to expand and enhance their outpatient services. Clients were successfully transitioned to other providers.

Rosamond Siegwarth motioned to approve the EzPar as presented, Kelly Biehls seconded the motion; the Board approved the EzPar.

Horizon Health Services - Application to establish a school-based satellite clinic at Newfane Central School District's High School. Horizon's currently has a school-based satellite clinic established at the Middle school and the agency reports there are students transitioning to the high school in September who are in need of continued services. The agency intends to establish hours on Mondays 8 am – 4 pm, and using the same Clinician assigned to the Middle School on a different day. Medical provider time is also included in the budget. The projected caseload is 10-15, and 400 services annually. The agency currently has satellites in the Niagara Wheatfield Middle and High School and in the Niagara Falls School District at Gaskill Preparatory. Katie Burbee was present to answer questions from the Board.

Dr. Ronald Barstys motioned to approve the EzPar as presented, Dr. Annette Dobrasz seconded the motion; the EzPar was approved by the Board.

Informational –

- Buffalo Psychiatric Center North Tonawanda Clinic – relocation from Webb Street to a new modernized site on Manhattan Street. The agency believes the move will have a positive effect on clients. There are no changes to phone number or bus routes for public transportation access.
- Gateway-Longview submitted Administrative Action requests to change school-based satellite clinic operating hours, days in 7 locations in Niagara County. Some of the changes will result in reduced service availability to district students and families. Based on

information available to the LGU related to District needs, some of the agency's requests are objectionable. Deputy Director Gibbons Doxey facilitated contact between leadership at Gateway-Longview and the School District requesting they meet to discuss the current state of service utilization and opportunities that exist to maximize them. Then, the LGU will facilitate a meeting with both entities to gain information on outcome in order to further make comment on the applications in the NYS OMH MHPD system.

- **Abate Elementary School** in the Niagara Falls School District – change in day and reduction in days and operating hours.
 - **Bloneva Bond (formerly Niagara Street) Elementary** in the Niagara Falls School District – Reduction in days and operating hours
 - **Cataract Elementary School** in the Niagara Falls School District – change in day
 - **Colonial Village Elementary** in the Niagara Wheatfield School District – change in day with an additional day requested
 - **Henry J. Kalfas Elementary** in the Niagara Falls School District – change in day of week and reduction in operating hours
 - **Hyde Park Elementary** in the Niagara Falls School District – change in day of week
 - **Maple Avenue Elementary** in Niagara Falls School District – change in day of week – no students served in past 2 years
 - No change to 79th Street Elementary in the Niagara Falls School District or GJ Mann Elementary (which is not an active satellite, no services being provided)
 - Horizon Health Services submitted Administrative Action request to change the room utilized as the Niagara Wheatfield Middle School School-Based Satellite. No concerns noted with this request.
 - Community Missions Inc. – loss of 10 supportive housing beds (five scattered site and five long-stay). Director Kelemen provided additional information related to this. Based on NYS OMH historical research it was determined that Community Missions is only funded for 96 Supportive Housing Community Services beds through Direct Contract with OMH, and 2 PC long stay beds through State Aid Letter. Community Missions was stretching the funds to cover the additional beds. OMH has clarified that this is not allowable.
 - Recovery Options Made Easy Inc. (Formerly Housing Options Made Easy, Inc.) Supportive Housing Provider – additional two (2) long-stay supported housing slots received. While looking at funding and bed counts, NY OMH found that ROME (Recovery Options Made Easy) is funded for 5 PC long stay beds, not 3. They were instructed to increase their capacity from 3 to 5 in order to rectify this.
- **2022-2023 SPOA Annual Report** – Presented by Myrla Gibbons Doxey, Deputy Director
 - **2025 NCDMH Department Proposed Budget** – Presented by Cindi Wilkins, Fiscal Administrator
 - **Corporate Compliance** – Director Kelemen reported we held our annual departmental all day training today. Pete Hill with NACS provided Cultural Competency training, and Deputy Director Gibbons Doxey provided staff with the Corporate Compliance training.
- **Programs / System Updates, provided by Director Laura Kelemen and Deputy Director Gibbons Doxey** –
 - Court Based Mental Health Navigators – Director Kelemen reported NYS OMH notified us, they would be providing funding to counties paying high CPL 730 costs. This funding will pay for 2 FTEs; we are awaiting further information from OMH about the use of these positions.
 - Niagara County Suicide Prevention Coalition Activities for Suicide Prevention Month – Deputy Director Gibbons Doxey provided an update on activities:
 - September 2nd Illuminate Niagara Falls in “Teal and Purple” occurred as scheduled.

- Niagara County Suicide Prevention Coalition (NCSPC) Flag Raising events: occurred at the Niagara Falls School District High School on 9/13/24; Lockport School District High School is scheduled for 9/19/24 and the North Tonawanda School District High School event is pending a date confirmation for next week. The North Tonawanda High School will be holding a modified event with tying ribbons to trees and possibly having students hold the flag for a picture verses raising it due to District rules that will prevent the flag raising.
 - The “You Matter” Coffee Sleeve Project – Approximately 10,000 sleeves were distributed to local participating coffee shops and stops throughout Niagara County. Gypsy Kitchen and Craft Coffee are two local participating coffee shops/stops that were recently featured on the news. Crosby’s and other local gas stations are also participating in the program.
- Niagara/Orleans Trauma, Illness and Grief (TIG) Consortium – 106 participants completed the TIG and Critical Incident Stress Debriefing model trainings; an additional 8 individuals partially completed the training. NCDMH in partnership with CCSI facilitated the first N/O TIG leadership meeting on 9/10/24, and we will continue meetings on a regular interval. Deputy Director Gibbons Doxey shared that the Department would like to offer additional trainings in 2025 through use of the local Opioid Settlement Funds
 - Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center – Inpatient Program-OMH Monitoring – NCDMH LGU received a letter dated August 19, 2024 regarding an ongoing monitoring visit for NFMMC’s inpatient program. Several concerns and complaints were brought to OMH’s attention. OMH began their initial review in February 2022, and identified various issues with restraints and seclusions, lack of documentation related to these, and failure to do appropriate reporting. OMH conducted a follow up monitoring visit in June 2024, and found the hospital has not taken any steps to address these problems. OMH is placing NFMMC on Enhanced Monitoring, and will now meet with them on a monthly basis. OMH has also revoked NFMMC’s deemed status.

5) President’s Report – Nothing to report.

6) Executive Session to discuss Corporate Compliance related matter

Dr. Annette Dobrasz motioned to enter into Executive Session; Dr. Thomas Gerbasi seconded the motion; the Board entered into Executive Session at 7:40 pm.

Dr. Annette Dobrasz motioned to exit Executive Session; Dr. Thomas Gerbasi seconded the motion; the Board exited Executive Session at 7:56 pm.

7) Meeting Adjournment

The meeting adjourned directly following the end of Executive Session at 7:56 pm.

Next CSB Meeting Date: October 21, 2024