



Niagara County Community Services Board
Minutes
Regular Meeting
Date: Monday, November 27, 2023
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 | |
| Peter Butera, PhD, 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 |
| Robin Stevens, Board Member | X | |
| Richard Abbott, Board Member | | X |
| Betsy Farkas, Board Member | | X |
| Donald Jablonski, Board Member | | X |
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| <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 |
| Tracey Zayac | X | |
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| <u>Guests</u> | | |
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| Avi Israel, Save the Michaels of the World | X | |
| Joe Chelales, Niagara Recovery Center | X | |
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1) **Burt Marshall, Board President, called the Community Services Board (CSB) Meeting to order at 6:02 PM.**

2) **The Minutes for the October 16, 2023 meeting were reviewed.**

Dr. Thomas Gerbasi motioned to approve the October 16, 2023 minutes as presented, Dr. Annette Dobrasz seconded the motion; the minutes were approved by the Board.

- **November 13, 2023 CSB Joint Subcommittee Meeting Minutes** – *Not yet available for review, tabled until next meeting.*

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

- **2024 Board Officer Election**

Slate of Officers:

President – Burt Marshall

1st Vice President – Dr. Annette Dobrasz

2nd Vice President - Stephanie Donovan

Call for nominations from the floor – No further nominations

A motion to accept the Slate of Officers as listed was made by Robin Stevens, seconded by Dr. Ronald Barstys. The motion to accept the Slate was approved unanimously.

- **Membership application review**

- **Kevin Hinkley**, is currently a professor at Niagara University, and mental health and healthcare law are two of his primary areas of teaching and research. Board members discussed his application during the October meeting.

The Board briefly discussed Mr. Hinkley's application. The Board decided not to move forward with this application.

- **Very Rev. Francis Kadryna** has served the community of Niagara Falls for the past 23 years and has had the opportunity to witness the various needs of the community and work at facilitating help and assistance. Rev. Kadryna is retired from ECMC Behavioral Health Services after 35 years working in various levels of alcohol/addiction services. Dr. Dobrasz commented he also taught at ECC in the past, and he has very good credentials. During the October meeting, Dr. Dobrasz recommended he meet with Burt Marshall and Director Kelemen for consideration of CSB membership. Director Kelemen and President Burt Marshall met with Rev. Kadryna on Monday, November 27, 2023 to interview him and discuss what he can expect from being a member of the Community Services Board. Director Kelemen and Burt Marshall feel that Rev. Kadryna would be an asset to the Board.

Dr. Annette Dobrasz motioned to vote on the application as presented; Stephanie Donovan seconded the motion, The Board approved Rev. Francis Kadryna's application for the Community Services Board.

- **Kelly Biehls, Ed.M.** is currently an Executive Assistant with Neighborhood Legal Services and previously at Neighborhood Health Center of WNY, Inc. She has over 20 years of experience as an administrative professional in the non-profit industry working with organizations whose mission are to bring critical resources and services to our most vulnerable populations. Stephanie Donovan has recommended the Board review her application and consider Kelly for the Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Subcommittee. President Burt Marshall and Director Kelemen met with Kelly on Monday, November 27, 2023 to interview

her and to discuss what she can expect from being a member of the subcommittee. Burt Marshall and Director Kelemen were very impressed with Ms. Biehls both personally and professionally. They feel she would be an asset to the Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Subcommittee.

Dr. Thomas Gerbasi motioned to vote on the application as presented; Rosamond Siegwarth seconded the motion, The Board approved Kelly Biehls's application for the Community Services Board.

4) Director's Report

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

- Letters, Memorandums & E-mails:

- Correspondence listed on separate page, attached

- Laura spoke on Cazenovia Recovery's letter regarding the potential closing of the Step Toward Success Program due to funding deficiencies (OASAS Supportive Housing). This is a key program in our community. Laura and Cindi Wilkins are working with the OASAS Field Office and Cazenovia on strategies to be able to continue the program. Laura is also attending a seminar next week hoping to obtain ideas to assist with our housing continuum of care.

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

***CON – Recovery Center of Niagara** application #234066 – Increase capacity from 40 to 100 beds. – Joe Chales spoke on behalf of Recovery Center of Niagara. Currently staffing will allow the agency to fill up to 85 beds. The capacity will gradually increase. Avi Israel spoke on behalf of Save the Michaels of the World (STM) and the number of individuals STM has placed out of area due to a lack of availability of inpatient and detox beds. He noted the demand of people in need of help often appears to exceed what the State beds can handle. Mr. Israel provided a handout with statistics on individuals placed in treatment through the assistance of STM this year; almost 500 people were placed out of area.

Stephanie Donovan motioned to vote to approve the CON as presented; Robin Stevens seconded the motion. The CON was approved by the Board.

***EzPar - None**

Informational – Horizon Health Services – Withdrew administrative action for Integrated Outpatient Services (IOS) OMH hosted licensed (Pine Avenue location). Director Kelemen spoke on the reasoning for Horizon's decision as relayed to the LGU. Recent regulatory guidance released by NYS OASAS creates more work for their frontline staff for reporting purposes and in billing nuances with no clear benefit for seen by the agency for their operations. Horizons currently offers both OMH and OASAS licensed services in their clinics and their clinicians are trained in integrated care so this will have no impact on client treatment. As no change occurred in their license, there is no impact on current clients.

- **2022 Department Annual Report** - Initially presented by Cindi Wilkins, Fiscal Administrator during the August 2023 meeting; however the Board was unable to vote on the report due to not having a quorum. Director Kelemen reviewed the report with the Board prior to voting at this meeting.

Dr. Annette Dobrasz motioned to approve the report as presented and reviewed; Burt Marshall seconded the motion; the 2022 Department Annual Report was approved by the Board.

- **Corporate Compliance** – Presented by Deputy Director Myrla Gibbons Doxey. Deputy Director Gibbons Doxey will be working on the Annual Risk Assessment and completing the 4th Quarter Report before the end of year. She will send out the 4th quarter report to the Board before Christmas for review noting if anyone has any questions, they can reach out directly to her. The Annual Risk Assessment results will be available to the Board and reviewed in an executive session in January 2024.
- **Programs / System Updates, provided by Director Kelemen –**
 - Save the Michaels of the World requested to terminate contact with NCDMH PATH3D Program (as part of the COSSAP grant) for the Peer Support part of the program citing it was not a good fit based on their mission; STM requested to end the contract effective 12/1/23. The PATH3D Program Peer Support will transition to Community Missions Inc. effective 12/1/23.
 - Opioid Abatement Funds – Director Kelemen reviewed the Opioid Settlement Funds (called Regional Abatement dollars) the Department is receiving through NYS OASAS. In 2023, Niagara County was allocated \$1.2 million dollars and will be allocated another \$1.2 million dollars again in 2024. We are looking to develop and support the housing/residential continuum of care for individuals with co-occurring substance use disorders and severe mental illness. We have had some preliminary discussions with Horizon Health Services and Clearview Treatment Services inpatient programs regarding specific programming/units for individuals with SMI. Department will host a round table discussion January 2024 and determine next steps.

5) President's Report – Nothing to report at this time.

6) Executive Session –

Dr. Annette Dobrasz motioned to enter into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter; Rosamond Siegwarth seconded the motion; the Board entered into Executive Session at 7:25 pm.

Dr. Annette Dobrasz motioned to exit Executive Session; Rosamond Siegwarth seconded the motion; the Board exited Executive Session at 7:45 pm.

7) Meeting Adjournment

The meeting adjourned immediately following the Executive Session at 7:45 pm.

Next CSB Meeting Date: January 22, 2024