



Niagara County Community Services Board
Minutes
Regular Meeting
Date: Monday, December 2, 2024
Time: 6:00 pm

LOCATION: Gothic Hill Golf Course, 5477 Niagara Street Extension, Lockport, NY 14094

<u>ATTENDANCE:</u>	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	
Tracey Zayac	X	
Lee Ann Cogar, Confidential Assistant		X
Cindi Wilkins, Fiscal Administrator	X	
<u>Guests</u>		

1) **Burt Marshall, Board President, called the Community Services Board (CSB) Meeting to order at 6:21 PM.**

2) **The Minutes for the October 21, 2024 meeting were reviewed.**

Dr. Thomas Gerbasi motioned to approve the October 21, 2024 minutes as presented, Don Jablonski seconded the motion; the minutes were approved by the Board.

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

▪ **2025 Executive 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 Dr. Thomas Gerbasi, seconded by Suzanne Diez. The motion to accept the Slate was approved unanimously.

▪ **Membership review:**

• **Stephanie Donovan – 2nd Term**

Richard Abbott motioned to approve a second term for Stephanie Donovan beginning January 1, 2025. Dr. Thomas Gerbasi seconded the motion. The Board approved the second term.

• **Community Services Board Application Review:**

The Board reviewed an application provided by Robin Stevens. Robin Stevens has previously served on the Community Services Board, and after taking a year off, would like to return as a member.

Don Jablonski motioned to approve the application as presented, Dr. Annette Dobrasz seconded the motion. The Board approved the application.

Director Kelemen reported we are expecting another application, not yet received.

▪ **Sub-Committee Assignments – CSB Members**

Subcommittee applications, further discussion during January meeting. Each Subcommittee may include up to three CSB members. Subcommittee members to be determined in January.

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** - None

Informational –

- Catholic Health Services – Deputy Director Gibbons Doxey shared that Sisters of Charity Case Management Program is pursuing Specialty Mental Health Care Management Health Home Plus status in Erie and Niagara Counties. She had a recent meeting with the program leadership to discuss their current program. She invited their participation in the Niagara County Adult Single Point of Access (SPOA) meetings and provided a letter of support to pursue the HH Plus status to serve Niagara County residents.
 - Horizon Health Services – Deputy Director Gibbons Doxey reviewed an administrative action submitted by the agency for Niagara Wheatfield School District school-based satellite clinic room, day and hours change to accommodate students per school's request. This will result in an hour and half reduction in service hour.
 - Horizon Health Services – Deputy Director Gibbons Doxey reported that the agency's Newfane School District school-based satellite clinic at the High School was approved by OMH with a start date of Dec. 2, 2024
 - OMH Healthy Steps awards – Director Kelemen reported that the NYS Office of Mental Health awarded a recent Health Steps Grant to two pediatric practices in Niagara County, Dr. Beney and Wheatfield Pediatrics. The Healthy Steps program is an evidenced-based program that integrates mental health and physical health screening and support in pediatric offices for children, and their families, ages 0 – 3.
- **Corporate Compliance** – No new business. The 4th Quarter Report will be prepared and distributed by end of December. Annual Risk/Effectiveness Report to be completed by year-end as well.
- **Programs / System Updates, provided by Director Kelemen –**
- Lockport/Shaw Move – Director Kelemen reported the lease has been signed, and we are moving forward with the build out. The move is estimated to occur late 1st quarter or 2nd quarter 2025.
 - Suicide Prevention Efforts – Niagara Falls Parks System – Director Kelemen reviewed plans for programs collaborating with Niagara Falls Park Rangers / Parks Police. Deputy Director Gibbons Doxey reached out to Kevin Hines for guidance on where to start to make change as his advocacy efforts were pivotal to get nets installed at the Golden Gate Bridge as a deterrent to suicides. Mr. Hines is an International Suicide Prevention Spokesman, who attempted suicide in 2000 by jumping off the Golden Gate Bridge. He is one of a few survivors and now shares a message of hope and recovery with others. Director Kelemen and Deputy Director Gibbons Doxey recently met with him virtually. Mr. Hines offered valuable information and facilitated additional connections. Department Administration are currently in conversation with the Governor's Office and anticipate further collaborations Mr. Hines in the near future. More to follow.
 - Opioid RFP - Attorney General Dollars – The goal for December is to evaluate RFPs, there were 12 received. The RFPs will be reviewed/evaluated by Director Kelemen, Deputy Director Gibbons Doxey, and Chairman Rebecca Wydysh. Director Kelemen requested additional volunteers from the CSB to assist with evaluating received RFPs. CSB members that volunteered include: Burt Marshall, Dr. Ronald Barstys, Kelly Biehls, and Suzanne Diez. Each reviewer is required to evaluate the RFPs independently and then the reviewer committee will convene to discuss the

applications and select awardees. The Department will then forward this information to the Legislature for award.

- 988/Crisis Services Staffing Re-Design – Director Kelemen reported the CSEA Contract ends 12/31/2024. She is currently working with Human Resources regarding two requests: The Community Mental Health Aide position is currently at Job Group 8; all other jobs in that category are at Job Group 10. This was recently sent to HR for review. We are currently paying \$10,000 - \$12,000 less per year than any other county in NYS for the same position. We are evaluating the current job descriptions versus actual duties of these personnel.

Crisis Services Phone Aides – We may need to create and develop a higher level of credentialing with experience more applicable to the position, and possibly create some per diem positions. Director Kelemen is asking the Board for assistance, providing ideas from CSB members. We need to provide more appropriate pay rates for this highly demanding position. She is currently looking at our staffing structure and determining how we can build during the transition, possibly providing paid training (similarly, to how they do for staff in another department when they are in CDL training), etc. More information to follow.

Director Kelemen shared a Certificate of Appreciation for Rosamond Siegwath with the Board. Rose is retiring from the Board on December 31st after serving 16 years. Unfortunately, Rose was unable to attend the meeting tonight. Rose's knowledge, compassion, and contributions to the Board will surely be missed.

5) President's Report – Nothing to report.

6) Meeting Adjournment

Dr. Annette Dobrasz motioned to adjourn the meeting; Dr. Thomas Gerbasi seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 7:38 pm.

Next CSB Meeting Date: Tentatively - January 27, 2025 (combined with February)