

**COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD**  
**OF CORTLAND COUNTY**

**Meeting Minutes – January 26, 2021 – 3:00 p.m.**  
**VIRTUAL ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING – WEB EX**

**Members Present:** Jeff Beal (Chair), Donald Noble (Vice Chair), Doug Bentley, Elizabeth Haskins, Elizabeth Larkin, Tiffanie Parker, Julie Partigianoni, Kathy Reynolds, Matt Whitman and Leslie Wilkins (10)

**Members Absent:** Christopher Hyde and Timothy Lockwood

**Others Present:** Sharon MacDougall (Director Community Services), Myriah Dolson (Guthrie Cortland Medical Center), Kimberly Corbett (Springbrook DD Services), Michele Gravel (Director, Vocational Services – JM Murray), Nicholas Lynch (Captain CC Jail), Mark Thayer (OMH Field Office Director), David Phetteplace (Cincinnatus Schools), Sara Watrous, Jackie Allen and Travis Young (CACTC and HEALing Communities), Amanda Rainbow (DSS), Angela Adams (Liberty Resources-Mobile Crisis), Frank Hodge and Beckey Lumley (CCOCC), Angela Adams (Liberty Resources), Christopher Bergene (Hillside), Rene Hettich (AFFCNY), Aris Dysert (Conifer Park), Amy Carlson (Family Health Network), Amanda Stout (F&CCS), Christopher Driscoll (CCSI), Laurie Pendergraft and Samantha Glenn (DDRO OPWDD), Nancy Smith, Jamee Sobko, Teresa VanHeusen and Patricia Schaap, (CCMHD), Haile Cutter (Intern for Patty Schaap) and Gail Spitzer (Secretary) (29)

**Call to Order:** Welcomed by Jeff Beal, Chair at 3:11 p.m.

**Agenda Item:** Organizational Meeting Jeff Beal

Officer and Membership nominations were solicited from all the members in January 2021 – voting results elected the new Chair and Vice Chair, effective 2/2021 – additionally new members were voted to nominate for the CSB and three Subcommittees – those nominations will be brought to the Health and Human Services Committee of the Legislature (February 9) and finally the whole Legislature (February 25) – results below:

**\*Chair / Vice Chair**

Elected by confidential email vote of the membership, conducted by Gail Spitzer - Results – Chair: Matthew Whitman and Vice Chair: Kathryn Reynolds – Jeff Beal thanked and congratulated the new officers and continued the Organizational part of this meeting

**\*Election of Clerk of the Boards**

Chair Jeff Beal: motion requested

✓ Donald Noble made a motion to elect Gail Spitzer as Clerk of the Community Services Board and its three Subcommittees, seconded by Tiffanie Parker – all in favor, none opposed, no abstentions – motion passed

**\*Membership**

New Members were elected by confidential email vote of the membership, conducted by Gail Spitzer – Results of the voting as follows:

CSB: Amanda Rainbow\*\*, Richard Shaw, Kimberly Corbett

CD Subcommittee: Aris Dysert\*\*, Beckey Lumley, Amanda Rainbow

MH Subcommittee: Christopher Bergene, Richard Shaw

DD Subcommittee: No candidates – one vacancy

New Members will serve four year term except\*\* completing the term of a resigned member

Final approval process: Health and Human Services Committee – February 9, 2021 and full Legislative meeting – February 25, 2021

**\*Meeting Day and Time:** Remain unchanged – fourth Thursday of most months – calendar previously prepared and emailed

**Agenda Item:** Introductions – Gail Spitzer, Secretary read the name of all the attendees and their affiliations – 39 in attendance

At this point in the meeting, outgoing Chair Jeff Beal asked Matt Whitman, incoming Chair if he would like to take the lead, which he accepted – Matt thanked Jeff and Don for their service, noting the difficult circumstances of the last year – the presence of Covid-19 required some creativity in running and conducting these meetings / Sharon reiterated, adding that she was appreciative of their help as she was transitioning into the Director's position

Former DCS, Mark Thayer (now Director of OMH Field Office) added his thanks to Jeff Beal, as Jeff is completing his second term of membership with the CSB and will be "terming" off – thanked him for his time and energy on the CSB and in DD Subcommittee – Jeff has served for many years and his, and Don Noble's, hard work has led to the culmination of this fine coalition of people who attend from all around the County – very rare to

have this kind of participation – Jeff helped improve the relationship with the Legislation and being able to encourage people to be active and participate in this process – Mark expressed his hope that Jeff would continue to attend and stay part of the process

Jeff Beal: It has been a tremendous pleasure to work with Mark, Sharon MacDougall, Gail Spitzer and others in the community – extremely fortunate to have people who work so well together...

**Agenda Item:** Approval of Minutes – Joint CSB/Subcommittees meeting December 15, 2020 (Unintentionally skipped)

**Agenda Item:** Agencies / Coalition / Hospital / Departments / Schools Update

- Matt Whitman (Director of CACTC ) Results are back from the 2020 Youth Development Survey of 7 to 12<sup>th</sup> grade students from all the schools in Cortland County /CACTC’s epidemiologist is working with the data – surprisingly, most of the results are positive; i.e. use of all substances has decreased – first decrease in use of marijuana in almost a decade / mental health has been a concern over the years and concern for increases during the pandemic driving the numbers, however, there was very little change from prior year / questions related to Covid were added to this survey / will have a presentation to the whole group at some point
- Patty Schaap (SPOA Coordinator and PSY Director) – SPEAK UP Cortland, Suicide Coalition – working with local law enforcement (Cortland City Police and County Sheriff’s department)to develop some Public Service Announcements developing videos about how to use gun locks and gun safety – City PD are giving away gun locks / Finishing up a System of Care facilitation – she and Christopher Driscoll working closely with OMH in studying the gaps in children’s services – working in collaboration with agencies and departments in the County – presentation next week – also applying for the SOC grant through SAMHSA – if awarded is \$1million per year for four years
- Sara Watrous (CACTC and HEALING Communities) – Healing Communities initiative sent its first monthly newsletter to update community partners of the efforts to reduce opioid related deaths – contact Sara if you have not receive the newsletter but would like to / working with Family & Children’s Counseling Services to plan Narcan training events throughout the County – days, times, locations can be found on Facebook Page and 2-1-1
- Laura Pendergraft (OPWDD Regional Office) – big push now to vaccinate – working with families and groups / staffing and returning staff to work guidelines are coming down (from the State)
- Mark Thayer (OMH Field Office Director) – OMH also has vaccinations high on priority list – trying to understand access and availability for providers and recipients of services – thank you to everyone who tried to figure out and complete surveys, had some problems – they are important to more clearly understand the needs of the providers and recipients / also focused on trying to get more information about the budget – NYS slowly working through the budget processes – there is the potential loss of RPC in the budget – looking for way to keep that service / Mark asked for feedback about the access to vaccines and how it has been going
- **Discussion:** Laurie Pendergraft – Department of Health website used to find vaccination sites based on PODS (Point of Delivery) POD not restricted to living or work place / Kathy Reynolds went to Onondaga County for the first dose of the vaccine (waiting for information on the second dose) – has friends who have gone to Binghamton – so far, all comments have been very positive / Elizabeth Haskins – press release was issued last Friday stating Office of the Aging would help with 65+ registration for vaccines – misinformation, shortages of vaccine, restrictions based on age at pharmacies (who are overwhelmed) – overall appointment are going very quickly and many are still waiting – easier process needs to be available for 60+ - SUNY Cortland was to make space available to accommodate 500 people but that did not happen / Sharon MacDougall – all but a few staff at the MH Clinic were able to get vaccinated in early January (MH providers are prioritized) – all staff were given second appointment dates right then

**Agenda Item:** Director’s Report (copy emailed earlier) Sharon MacDougall

Report has links to information about spikes in numbers of people contracting the virus, NYS dashboard link, access to resources – Cortland County website staying current with any updates; providing links to other information / shortages in vaccine seems to be a federal and State supply chain issue / discussions ongoing with County agencies regarding budget cuts from State aid

Donald Noble referenced Matt Whitman’s Youth Development Survey – is there an explanation for number decline in student with mental health issues, especially during this time of one year into the pandemic – have the providers in the County seen a change / Sharon MacDougall – County Mental Health Clinic has seen a definite increase in intake requests among youth – collaboration between SPOA and Social Services have been collaborating to address increasing needs – coming out of this pandemic will require preparedness to accommodate increase in mental health needs – one of the main purposes for the SOC workshop and need for the grant to help fill the gaps in the community / Amanda Stout (Family & Children’s Counseling Services) has had a difficult time connecting with students in the school-based clinics – clinical staff struggling to get one on one time with the students

**Chair, Matt Whitman:** Standing agenda item for the next few months – relating to the long-term impacts of Covid 19, as in the increased drug use and mental illness – what to plan for and to expect for different populations

**Comments from WebEx chat:** Amy Carlson, Family Health Network – At FHN, we went through 500 doses, which also promises the 2<sup>nd</sup> dose to all individuals. We do not know when we will get more vaccines at this time.

Angela Adams, Mobile Crisis – Mobile Crisis has seen an increase in youth and families, as well (increase in MH cases and instances of being called to service)

Doug Bentley, Legislator – My wife and I dialed into the Cortland Covid Hotline a few dozen times on a Tuesday morning...and managed to get through. We got our first Moderna shot Wednesday afternoon. We logged in to set up our second shot appointment for (February) 17 (4 wks). We just got lucky.

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**Agenda Item:**            Adjourn            Chair, Matt Whitman adjourned the meeting at 3:55 P.M.

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**NEXT MEETING: FEBRUARY 23, 2021**  
Minutes and notes submitted by Gail L. Spitzer  
Inquires may be made to:  
[gspitzer@cortland-co.org](mailto:gspitzer@cortland-co.org)  
607-428-5482

JEFF BEAL, THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE TO YOUR COMMUNITY