

**MENTAL HEALTH SUBCOMMITTEE**  
**CORTLAND COUNTY**  
**COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD MEETING**

**Meeting Minutes – February 11, 2019 – 3:00 P.M.**  
**Room 302 – County Office Building**

**Chair: Shari Weiss, Ph.D.**

**Vice Chair: Ellen Wright**

**Director: Mark Thayer**

**Members Present:** Ellen Wright (Vice Chair), Cynthia Guy, Christopher Hyde, Elizabeth (Betsy) Larkin and Leslie Wilkins

**Members Absent:** Loreen Geiger, Darlene Latten and Shari Weiss

**Others Present:** Mark Thayer (Director), Brittany Van Winkle (Catholic Charities of Cortland County), Jamee Sobko (Cortland County Mental Health Department-Director, Family Support Services) and Gail Spitzer (Secretary)

**Call to Order:** 3:07 p.m.

**Meeting Minutes**

There not being a quorum at the meeting’s start, Vice Chair, Ellen Wright called the meeting to order and requested introductions and asked that the meeting begin with the Director’s Report until such time as a quorum is established

**Agenda Item:** Introductions

**Agenda Item:** Director’s Report (copy provided) Mark Thayer

County Run Services – Openings in Clinic, Senior Social Worker (LCSW-R), Medical Services Clerk – an offer will be made for the LCSW-R internally, creating an opening for an LMSW – also have openings in Jamee Sobko’s Family Support staff – Patty Schaap is our new SPOA Coordinator

Justice League Meeting last week – approximately 45 people attended – good meeting – discussed data – next meeting May – some additional funding from the State to provide treatment services in the jail and some reentry work – connecting with people prior to their discharge: \$60,000 for calendar year 2018 and in Governor’s budget for 2019, will continue to advocate for funding

Care Compass Network – three separate Cohort Management Programs in Cortland County – setting up Value Based Payment models – working closely with (CRMC – Guthrie) with focus on heart disease / Family Counseling Services is lead on ACES Cohort (Leslie Wilkins: core group working to put some things in place and will send notifications to invite participation)

Guthrie Cortland Medical Center received grant \$4.6M to invest in the emergency room (separate space for individuals with behavioral health problems and renovation of 1E, the oldest section of the hospital) – great that they are investing in mental health in the community – Lisa Roos promoted to Nurse Manager of Behavioral Health Services and interested in community involvement

Columbia University CHASE(County-system Hub and Spoke Empowerment) Grant: creating integrated system of care – four year grant, up to \$2.5M per year, built in full time support staff, final phase of decisions with only 3 awards nationwide – NY has made it through first cuts / Cortland one of 15 counties chosen for a “site visit”

Betty Hatheway Foundation – reconstituting board to determine final use of this fund – have four members currently, seeking one more community member to begin this process to finally expend the funds

Regional Updates: CNY Directors’ Planning Group – other directors across the State, meeting with DSS directors and directors of the State agencies for OPWDD, OMH and OCFS to find resolutions to coordinate care across systems for those highest needs individuals avoiding future problems

Regional Peer Recovery Center Meeting – all regional peer recovery centers, directors and OMH representatives – help highlight all the good work done by these centers; the integral functions provided by their work in the communities

Crisis Mobile Teams – Cortland County highest utilizer of service, relative to the other counties in our Region -- fully integrated with the Hospital’s hotline and the City PD – 40 calls average per month

Regional Open Access – Transportation to that service has been the biggest challenge – Helio Health, lead agency, has contracted with Lyft to assist in bridging that gap – utilize Medicaid transportation whenever possible – COTI is additional resource to assist with transportation

Governor’s proposed budget – information and detail provided in Director’s packet / CLMHD advocating for “Bring it Home Coalition” - urging the State to increase funding, in the budget, to support community based housing provider / Workforce COLA (Cost of Living Act) to support OMH and OASAS agency employees / budget proposed extending the Medicaid rates until 2022 for outpatient services / RTA – proposal in budget to double funding in support during implementation / apply for Federal Medicaid waivers adding health care and housing to services to be included in Medicaid for inmates 30 days prior to reentry / for ninth year, budget includes downsizing State Psychiatric Centers

Packet includes articles and links regarding marijuana legalization – positions taken by many State organizations, listing concerns and recommendations

Betsy Larkin asked about mental health screening on admission at the jail – Mark: assessment is done and if there seems to be a need, they are referred to the County’s Forensic MH Counselor at the Jail for further evaluation – one of the physical limitations with the existing jail is the inability to separate all of the individual populations which does not allow the specialized attention needed

**Agenda Item:** Approve Minutes of September 10, 2018 Vice Chair Ellen Wright: Are there any corrections to the minutes

✓ As there are no corrections or comments, the minutes are approved

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**Agenda Item:** Organizational Meeting:

\*Identify Chair / Vice Chair: Ellen asked if Shari Weiss, being absent from this meeting, had express an interest in remaining Chair of the MH Subcommittee – it was confirmed / Ellen asked if there were any members present interested in holding the position of Chair or Vice Chair – there being no nominations or volunteers brought forth, the officers will remain the same for the coming year / Mark thanked Ellen and expressed appreciation that the officers have remained the same through all Subcommittees and the Community Services Board; adding the benefit of continuity

\*Meeting Day and Time: It was agreed by all present that the MH Subcommittee remain the second Monday of the month at 3:00 p.m.

\*Approval of Proposed Calendar: Sent electronically by secretary – no meetings in July and August, Joint meetings in May and December – there being no objection, the calendar was approved as sent

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**Agenda Item:** Membership Survey – Annual Report – Annual Plan: Plan for 2019

Survey of membership prior to Joint meeting in December – discussed overall census, opinions and how can it help sculpt the year ahead – membership, Director's Report discussion, changing the agenda order in 2018 gave others more time to update group, following up with the Director's Report – discussed sending electronically to utilize the hyper-links throughout – Betsy Larkin asked if the whole packet could be sent prior to the meeting; agreed depending on the timeliness / many comments about the good job of the Chairs and Vice Chairs / always looking for more presentations this year – it is also an opportunity to invite others to attend these open meetings / Leslie Wilkins: proposed setting aside 5-10 minutes at each meeting for "shining stars" – have an opportunity to come and talk about the great work they do – also helps spread the information shared at these meetings – Mark: great idea for agencies to think about / Ellen: especially true with this Subcommittee, impressed with how people cooperate, collaborate, coordinate; so beneficial to patients, their families and taxpayer because of this good work

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**Agenda Item:** Agency/School Updates and Report

Leslie Wilkins (FCS, CPR, LGBT) – Received word today that the LGBT Center has received funding for an additional 5 years – many other agencies did not receive their renewed funding – excellent news / CPR looking at a new grant opportunities

Chris Hyde (FCS COTI Program) – he and Mike Johnson just completed two weeks of peer recertification training

Betsy Larkin (County Clerk) – requesting agenda item for next month; discuss discharge policy at the Mental Health Clinic

Jamee Sobko (FSS – CCMHD) – FSS program – two unexpected resignations of part-time staff at the end of last year – were planning to begin accepting referrals for the new Child and Family Treatment and Support program – will be delayed – working to fill those positions; posting job description on 2-1-1 List Serve, County Website and Facebook; not receiving many responses, to date / Remaining staff are "Shining Stars" – one full-time and two remaining part-time staff have been stepping up to cover groups and able to accept referrals as necessary – pulling together / Keeping positive

Cynthia Guy (SUNY Cortland) – Institute for Civic Engagement is holding a number of deliberative dialogues on campus; one being homelessness, climate change – community members are always welcome – February 2019 Civic Engagement Newsletter: [http://www2.cortland.edu/programs/civic-engagement/civic-engagement-newsletter/ICE%20Newsletter\\_February%202019.Final.pdf](http://www2.cortland.edu/programs/civic-engagement/civic-engagement-newsletter/ICE%20Newsletter_February%202019.Final.pdf) which also includes the calendar of events

Brittany Van Winkle (CCOCC) – at full staff – 100 % occupancy for last four months – large waiting list, having trouble finding services for individuals to transition out of these programs, such as assisted living

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Other Business: Cynthia Guy: once the hospital (Guthrie Cortland Medical Center) starts formulating their plans for renovation and the emergency room, would they be able to attend this meeting and present – to have an idea of the changes / Mark: there should be that opportunity for them and would be mutually beneficial – discussion about Emergency Services Meetings with the hospital; used to create accountability

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**Agenda Item:** Adjourn Ellen: If there is no reason not to adjourn, we are adjourned – 4:13 p.m.

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**Next Regular Meeting – March 11, 2019**

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Minutes submitted by Gail L. Spitzer

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Approved minutes available on County Website:  
[www.Cortland-Co.org/433/Mental-Health](http://www.Cortland-Co.org/433/Mental-Health)