

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES SUBCOMMITTEE
OF CORTLAND COUNTY
Community Services Board

Meeting Minutes – March 5, 2019
1:00 P.M.
JM Murray – Route 13, Cortland NY

Members Present: Jeff Beal (Chair), Kimberly Corbett, Aaron Hammond, Marianne Odell, Amanda Rainbow, Kathy Reynolds and Ken Woodman

Members Absent: Elizabeth Haskins

Others Present: Mark Thayer (Director), Michele Gravel and Karen Schuepback (JM Murray), Laurie Pendergraft and Samantha Glenn (DDRO), Christopher Kiser (Racker Center) and Gail Spitzer (Secretary)

Call to Order: 1:04 p.m. by Chair, Jeff Beal

MINUTES

Introductions Laurie explained that Samantha took Beth Astramskas' place as Beth received a promotion to Team Leader at the Regional Office – Samantha will cover all of Central NY until an additional staff person is hired – that person will be responsible for Cortland County

Agenda Item: Approval of Minutes from February 5, 2019 Motion requested by Chair, Jeff Beal

✓ Motion made by Kathy Reynolds, seconded by Marianne Odell – unanimously approved

Agenda Item: Thank you JM Murray for hosting Michele Gravel

Michele led a tour of the worksite located at the JM Murray Center on Route 13 in Cortlandville. She explained the changes required to remain a viable workplace; balancing regulations and oversight from OPWDD, FDA and other government agencies while fulfilling manufacturing and distribution contracts and ensuring employee safety – as a result, JM Murray has successfully maintained an environment in which individuals with disabilities can continue to be productive, contributing members of the community – this new business model must employ a percentage of individuals without disabilities and as a consequence, has offered new opportunities for others seeking ways to transition into the workforce and learning new skills

Meeting resumed – Michele said in July of 2013 when OPWDD no longer sanctioned "Sheltered Workshops", JM Murray began hiring employees (production staff) to meet the contracts – those people are still on staff – they are paid minimum wage and must maintain a certain level of productivity – employees with developmental disabilities are paid at a lower rate due to Department of Labor 14C waiver / Kathy Reynolds – retired from Cortland High School, discussed the partnership that was developed between the school and JM Murray – helping with assessments and transitions into the work environment – also mentioned the diversity of production lines; products for Bed Bath and Beyond, to wedding dress boxes – most general public not aware – Michele: JM Murray hired a PR person last week – will be able to share more information; brochures, etc.

Agenda Item: Membership Discussion – Welcome new members

Jeff Beal welcomed and thanked new members Aaron Hammond and Amanda Rainbow - one vacancy remaining – ideas for candidates can be passed on to Jeff, Mark or Gail or invited to attend a meeting

Agenda Item: Agency / School / Other Updates:

- Christopher Kiser (Racker Center) – April 11 Event at Greek Peak, speaker Al Condeluci – discussing The Power of Relationships – reservations www.racker.org / Marianne Odell (Racker Center) – Event last December at Greek Peak very well attended; almost 100 people – many self-advocates
- Aaron Hammond (MC ARC) – some changes going on within Agency, discussions about regionalization / "kudos" to Michele Gravel and the JM Murray in keeping this work place open – these individuals are able to earn money as they take pride in themselves and their work / Jack Campbell is retiring in July and the current CFO will be taking that position, for continuity and seamless transition / MC ARC is also planning to add peer representation to their Board / Article 16 Clinic on Crawford St.; discussion of renovations and expanded hours – need for access to crisis services – Mark: may be helpful to have Clinic's Director attend this meeting to discuss move and updates, what challenges and opportunities
- Laurie Pendergraft (OPWDD) – START RFP still not released – working with providers Community First Choice Option (CFCO) – working with providers who provide community hab to individuals enrolled in a managed care plan – agencies will have to work to connect the managed care plan and come up with agreements for billing / RFP scheduled to go out in March for FSS – targeting behavioral services and respite – recommending start early (Grants Gateway – mechanism of applying and contracts) / Mark: since Cortland's region is the last START to roll out, are there training opportunities in other regions or statewide to utilize until it begins – Laurie: there are crisis respite homes in other regions that can be accessed – will inquire about specific training – Mark: how to get existing MH Mobile Crisis teams trained to properly care for development disabilities

Discussion: Michele Gravel discussed an individual situation and the complexity of the person receiving the care needed – enrollment in one TBI program or OPWDD, excludes services from other support or State agency programs (has brain injury and is OPWDD eligible, now cannot receive service from Liberty Resources TBI) – family struggling – Laurie: suggested IBR (Institute for Behavioral Research) / Michele: individual now working at JM Murray but has ongoing problems / Christopher Kiser: begin with TBI waiver – more ongoing services available / Amanda Rainbow: beginning July 1 UAS (Unified Assessment System) available if score is a 5 or above, that determines a second set of services

Discussion: Jeff Beal: Kathy Reynolds suggested at the last meeting to begin establishing a goal, advocacy or project to work as a committee – begin a discussion and brainstorm for the next meeting – Thank you again for hosting this meeting, Michele Gravel – Next meeting April 2

Agenda Item: Adjourn Chair, Jeff Beal asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting

- ✓ Motion by Aaron Hammond and seconded by Amanda Rainbow – meeting ended at 2:15 p.m.
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Next Meeting: April 2, 2019
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ROOM 302 of the County Office Building

Minutes submitted by Gail L. Spitzer
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Approved minutes available on County Website:
www.Cortland-Co.org/433/Mental-Health