

**DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES SUBCOMMITTEE**  
**OF CORTLAND COUNTY**  
**Community Services Board**

**Meeting Minutes – March 2, 2021**  
**1:00 P.M.**  
**VIRTUAL MEETING – VIA WEB EX**

**Members Present:** Kimberly Corbett (Chair), Aaron Hammond, Elizabeth Haskins, Amanda Rainbow and Ken Woodman

**Members Absent:** Kathy Reynolds, Renee Hettich and Marianne Odell

**Others Present:** Sharon MacDougall (Director), Jeff Beal (Retired OPWDD), Ernie Dodge and Dale Davis (JM Murray), Laurie Pendergraft (OPWDD-DDRO), Anne Seepersaud (Life Plan CCO), Kristen O'Brien (Family and Community Engagement Center), Madison Saufley, and Carey Peters (Southern Tier), Christine Fritzsich (Life Plan), Patricia Schaap (CCMHD), Haile Cutter (Intern for Patty Schaap) and Gail Spitzer (Secretary)

**Call to Order:** 1:05 p.m. by Chair, Kimberly Corbett

**MINUTES**

**Welcome and Introductions:** Chair Kimberly Corbett welcomed everyone to this DD Subcommittee

**Agenda Item:** Approval of Minutes from February 2, 2021 Motion requested by Chair, Kimberly Corbett

- ✓ Motion made by Elizabeth Haskins, seconded by Kenneth Woodman – unanimously approved

**Off Agenda:** Ernie Dodge, CEO of JM Murray asked to speak about the attempted passage of the minimum wage bill (Raise Wage Act) and its effect on the work that is done by IDD employees at JM Murray – there is a provision that phases out the (14C) Fair Labor Act, which allows JM Murray to pay a different type of wage to the developmentally disabled individuals / pre-Covid JM Murray employed over 100 employees, their average age 46, with average tenure is over 13 years / Act will gradually decrease 14C – rate will not be able to pay or continue paying people employed at Murray / requesting advocacy from this group – state and local political officials / Kim Corbett: response from OPWDD? – (Ernie; no incentive to maintain) / Kim: Murray not a typical work center – progressive supports for IDD / Ken Woodman (Father of an adult with developmental disability) making the work center untenable by restricting the 14C would be tragic for their employees and their families – son would be devastated – not just a job and a paycheck – it is their social environment and part of their lives (Per Aaron Hammond, there are 1,350 businesses nationally participate in the 14C as of January 2021 – Ernie: 14C is a Federal program)



Explanation of 14c of the Fair Labor Stand

**Agenda Item:** Timeline and expectations for mandated reports Director Sharon MacDougall

**Agenda Item:** Agency/School/Other Updates:

Laurie Pendergraft, OPWDD – vaccinations are top priority – trying to get people vaccinated with help of agencies and local health departments / 20% “withhold” on contract funding to State agencies (last half of 2020 and first quarter 2021) – is now a 5% cut

Theresa Sheldon, OPWDD – will try to bring data to every meeting in the future – January Data: emergency need list, 5 individuals from Cortland County – on substantial need list, 12 individuals from Cortland County on current need list – no one placed from Cortland County / for all counties: 6 new self- direction housing subsidies approved

Emergency need – number one priority: people who are in abusive situations, homeless or at risk of homelessness / substantial need list – at risk but not imminent; i.e. aging care giver, people in nursing homes / current need list – safe, not in imminent danger but wanting to keep options open

Christine Fritzsich (Life Plan) – sitting in for Anne Seepersaud – vaccine also top of priority list – educating members and their families – helping to facilitate whole process – making sure people are safe – very fortunate that Broome County has had many “pop-up” vaccination sites

Madison Saufley (Southern Tier Connect STC) – vaccination education to individuals and families – signing up for events – working on transportation piece / Springbrook set up some vaccine clinics

Aaron Hammond (Madison Cortland ARC) – spoke in favor of 14C and its importance

Patty Schaap (SPOA Coordinator/PSY Director – Cortland County Department of Mental Health) – Crisis services for OPWDD has been almost a daily conversation; both SPOA and Mobile Crisis Team – Team is responding more frequently to individuals with developmental disabilities – would be helpful to have a list of CCO’s and contacts in each – individuals do not always know the name of their care managers – SPOA; there have been many children in crisis – compounded by being in both OMH and OPWDD systems – OPWDD not having systems in place to accommodate youth in crisis – OMH becomes more involved as a result – Laurie Pendergraft; in Syracuse there is a really robust crisis team – “reach out”

Elizabeth (Liz) Haskins – will be advocating on behalf of 14C – Area Office on Aging – held first vaccine clinic with Rite Aid – were able to vaccinate 180 individuals – will be holding more at Kinney Drugs (Pharmacies currently service 65+ - have individuals contact County "hot line" for appointments or more information – will keep Gail informed to pass on the information / there will be accommodations for "home bound" individuals

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**Agenda Item:**                      Director's Report (sent out):                      Sharon MacDougall

County Plan 2022 Planning started – will be setting up meetings with Chairs and Vice Chairs to start – the strategic plans set last year have been stalled with the onset of Covid – this year less of a change, more "stabilize and recover" coming out of the pandemic March through May working toward final vote of the CSB at the end of May to submit in June

Director's report – copy (screen) shared / Region wide executive directors' meeting was February 8 – amazing meeting – data and many resources made available – encourage providers to join OPWDD regional organization / attached organizational chart, an extremely comprehensive tool (chart created by Laurie Pendergraft and her secretary – Sharon: kudos to the two)



DD DCS report  
3-2021.docx



Region two -  
organizational chart.p

State level negotiations regarding the State Aid and budgets – 5% cut has not been finalized – still time for advocacy – many groups pushing to prevent the cut from happening

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Kimberly Corbett: Asked for suggestions for next Agenda – Sharon MacDougall asked that "Budget" be added / Ken Woodman and Ernie Dodge discussed process and possible timeline of the Raise Wage Act and when it might affect 14C / Kimberly: next month talk with CCO's and the cuts they are facing / Carey Peters (STC) will send Gail an email to forward to group – seven CCO's are part of an alliance to advocate against budget cuts

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**Agenda Item:**                      Adjourn      Chair, Kimberly Corbett: with no further business, meeting is adjourned at 1:55 p.m.

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**Next regular meeting April 6, 2021  
Virtual Meeting – via WebEx  
1:00 p.m.**

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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)