

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

**Meeting Minutes – May 7, 2019
1:00 P.M.
Room 302 – County Office Building**

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

Members Absent: Aaron Hammond and Elizabeth Haskins

Others Present: Mark Thayer (Director), Michele Gravel (JM Murray), Aaron Wilson (Person to Person Citizen Advocacy), Laurie Pendergraft and Nora Staring (DDRO), Carey Peters (Southern Tier Connect), Shani Simpson (Guthrie Cortland Medical Center), Christopher Kiser (Racker Center), Patricia Schaap (CCMHD) and Gail Spitzer (Secretary)

Call to Order: 1:05 p.m. by Chair, Jeff Beal

MINUTES

Introductions

Agenda Item: Approval of Minutes from April 2, 2019 Motion requested by Chair, Jeff Beal

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

Agenda Item: 2019-2020 Annual Plan Discussion – 15 Strategies Related Mark Thayer and Attendees

Jeff Beal: Mark was able to extract the Priorities and Strategies that relate to OPWDD for today's meeting and include some updates – also very helpful the survey results summary and comments which had been emailed to everyone with the Agenda last week mirror similar concerns

Mark: will try to cover parts of Plan most OPWDD related, as time is an issue – please send him any ideas, questions, comments, etc. – OPWDD has recently shared data and how it references survey results / Level of unmet needs in OPWDD system – Cortland County Survey results: 65 people in took survey – 75% believe "system" is worse than previous year – could be reflection of the redesign (summary of issues reflect difficulty with Front Door, availability of services, staffing needs and lack of residential options) / Highest level of service needs: Housing/residential, respite, transportation, workforce recruitment and retention, etc. / Data from OPWDD (2016 compared to 2017) – Number of people in residential 2017 – 151, up from 139 in 2016 / Respite services 2017 – 72, down from 125 in 2016 (concerns about viability and rates being reformulated (number of people in community hab increased comparably) / Marianne: of concern; community hab very difficult to make available to anyone younger than 10 years old / Mark: spend data from OPWDD: 2017 – over \$20M for 387 recipients / 2018 – \$22M for 388 recipients; some spending increase due to system implementation

Began working through the 15 OPWDD related Strategies – several changed, update, created new, merged / Lines of communication being developed between State, agencies and care coordinators, to ultimately avoid an ER visit; possibly divert to respite or other services / new OPWDD liaison attending Complex Care Protocol; attending Emergency Services Meetings – establish appropriate order of communicating situations to either prevent hospitalizations or resolve situations in a timely manner (CCO, Care Managers) / need to develop more support for urgent, crisis situations – Marianne: Racker Center employs one Behavioral Health Specialist (BHS), covering Tompkins and Cortland County – large waiting list for very successful program – Racker will be submitting an RFP for second full time BHS for just Cortland

Need for cross-systems training for the Mobile Crisis Teams – currently no tracking number of calls to MC to assist an I-DD / Patty Schaap, on the MCT, confirmed that there are calls, some with increasing frequency – would benefit from knowing OPWDD system for effective referrals

NY START is not starting in the immediate future – will continue advocating for coordinating care and integrating services / CLMHD met with new OPWDD Commission – hoping to have him or his office directly involved in the planning which will help leverage resources – very positive meeting

OMH and OPWDD worked to develop psychiatric beds; one opened for adults downstate – children's center upstate (possibly at Hutchings) did not open

Extreme circumstances discussed; ill or elderly parents whose grown children have never accessed OPWDD services – a child in the ER who was rejected by multiple referrals to residential school or residential placement

Group discussion: What happens to people when they leave school? Records are sealed and eventually shredded. Is there a data base to document their disability? Is there way to, more easily, connect the student to the Front Door, upon graduation, or set up a "transition tracking system"? If a person does not go through the eligibility process after high school, it can cause a myriad of problems later

Starry Night and respite services in general – reopened conversation (with Laurie Pendergraft, others from OPWDD and Racker Center staff) regarding possible solutions discussed at a DD Subcommittee meeting, held at the Starry night facility

CNY DPG provides oversight trying to ensure people continue to have (relatively) easy access to services across the Region – what overall needs are there during this time of transition – educational opportunities – another opportunity to provide training to providers and recipients of service / Kim: <https://www.mc-cop.com/>

Transportation, workforce initiatives discussed – CNY DPG has been advocating on many levels on a Regional level – some new systems have been put in place overall – still many challenges, needs and gaps – preschool supports will be added to Annual Plan

Jeff Beal: Respite still has much higher demand than what is available – Cortland has an Agency with a viable facility unable to be fully utilized due to reimbursement rate – staffing and overhead – Marianne, Laurie and others will discuss further – waiting lists for every weekend – that information should be shared – find ways to increase available hours

Agenda Item: Agency / School / Other Updates:

- Kimberly Corbett (Springbrook) – Just selected to be the Support Agency for supportive housing – the site and developer have been preliminarily selected and approved – integrated supportive housing – in Ithaca; 150 units, 20 self-directed services and 5 for higher needs individuals / working with a committee to keep and build waiting lists – there will be staff on site, dedicated staff to field (ESSHI: Empire State Supportive Housing Initiative)

Agenda Item: Adjourn Chair, Jeff Beal asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting and thanked Mark for putting together the OPWDD portions of the Plan and thanked everyone for attending

- ✓ Motion by Marianne Odell, seconded by Kimberly Corbett – meeting ended at 2:31 p.m.

September: Contact and invite the three CCO's to the September meeting for discussion of progress, address any concerns

**Next Meeting: May 28, 2019 – Joint CSB / Subcommittees
Cortlandville Firehouse – Route 13
3:00 to 5:00 p.m.**

~

**Next regular meeting September 3, 2019
Room 302 – County Office Building
1:00 p.m.**

Minutes submitted by Gail L. Spitzer
gspitzer@cortland-co.org
607-428-5482

Approved minutes available on County Website:
www.Cortland-Co.org/433/Mental-Health