

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

**Meeting Minutes – September 3, 2019
1:00 P.M.
Room 302 – County Office Building**

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

Members Absent: Elizabeth Haskins

Others Present: Mark Thayer (Director), Michele Gravel (JM Murray), Samantha Glenn, John Lenhart (OPWDD-DDRO), Carey Peters, Meghann Andrews-Whitaker, Dora Gorman (Southern Tier Connect), Kate Miller and Andrea Foote (Prime Care Coordination), Anne Seepersaud (LifePlan CCO NY), Christopher Kiser (Racker Center), Patricia Schaap (CCMHD) and Gail Spitzer (Secretary)

Call to Order: 1:02 p.m. by Chair, Jeff Beal

MINUTES

Introductions

Agenda Item: Approval of Minutes from May 7, 2019 Motion requested by Chair, Jeff Beal

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

Agenda Item: Presentations: Care Coordination Organizations (CCO's)

“Health Home Care Management services are provided by Care Coordination Organizations (CCOs) to assist people with developmental disabilities and their families in gaining access to services and supports appropriate to their needs.” *from OPWDD Website

Cortland County is represented by three CCO's; LifePlan, Prime Care and Southern Tier Connect

Anne Seepersaud, **LifePlan** – CCO's in effect for approximately one year – Medicaid Service Coordinators are now called Care Managers (CM) who come from existing agencies; primarily Racker Center – offices located in Binghamton, Ithaca and Oneonta – in Cortland County, LifePlan serves over 200 people, with approximately 10 CMs and two supervisors / accepting referrals as they continue to expand the client base / CMs consist of new staff, many with mental health and DSS backgrounds, and staff who have worked in the OPWDD system for many years, bringing together a wealth of information and experience

Dora Gorman, Meghann Andrews-Whitaker and Carey Peters, **Southern Tier Connect** – Meghann: STC small CCO, doing very well in Cortland area – Carey is Supervisor from JM Murray serving over 200 individuals – have opened an office in Ithaca and headquartered in Oneonta – Dora is responsible for intake and eligibility in this region – goal is to provide service in an efficient and accessible way / Carey: (provided OPWDD eligibility checklist to everyone) – will help people through the process of the “Front Door” (FD) and qualifying decisions / Dora: changed from an ISP to a life plan – also doing a “person centered review” called IM assessment

Kate Miller and Andrea Foote, **Prime Care Coordination** – (Power Point presentation) Andrea: Individual and Family Engagement Coordinator – meet with parents and individuals / Mission to partner with Individuals with Developmental Disabilities (IDD) to live their lives in the most meaningful way possible in communities of their choice / PCC represents 39 counties, divided into regions / PCC offers student and family education specialists, working in conjunction with CMs – work with early intervention programs intended to eliminate gaps of service when transitioning / Kate: blended approach, based on tier status – changes in tier status will not mandate change in CMs for consistency and continuity / PCC created new position – CM Assistant: to support CM with referrals and background work / holistic approach; behavioral and medical needs being met through clinical team in each region / PCC stress importance of the intake process being done in person – enrollment coordinators will go to the client to complete paperwork, at location convenient to client

Kathy Reynolds: Retired CSE Chair from Cortland School District – asked for clarification of the new process relating to the schools and referrals = Carey: Always begin with FD, once that process is complete, choices of CCO options will be explained, based on coverage area – CCO's will assist clients in attaining eligibility and connecting with services, Medicaid benefits / Kathy: will share this information with the CSE's throughout the County / If contacted first, CCO staff will assist individuals or family members in connection to the FD – OPWDD is advocating FD first contact to explain CCO choices, options (Michele Gravel: schools should encourage and assist families making initial contact but school representatives cannot call)

OPWDD CNY FD: (315) 793-9600 ext. 603

Discussion and agreement respite services, of all kinds, sorely lacking in Cortland County – staffing / Mark asked what concerns would anyone like to have brought to the OPWDD Commissioner – Staffing, lack of respite services and medical/dental care options, need for more open communication between the State central office and the provider agencies / Dora: need for integrated care for crisis respite services, especially for children / Aaron Hammond, MC ARC – strongly encouraged people to attend Community Service Board (CSB) meetings – by doing so, he learned about many community services, such as Mobile Crisis Teams / Mark has been pressing for training for the mobile teams, eliminating the need for two separate services – another topic to be discussed with the Commissioner

Agenda Item: Agency / School / Other Updates:

- Christopher Kiser, Racker Center: re: staffing recruitment taking place at festivals and other public events, trying to draw more people and let more people know about job opportunities / Budgeting (stand-alone) class being held (no charge) at ATI – different topics each week, held on Wednesdays beginning September 18 through November 20 – call 607-753-7363 for more information
- Marianne Odell, Racker Center: will begin monthly meetings with all three CCO's; important to develop relationships with all the CMs – will discuss what programs are working successfully, what are current staffing issues
- Michele Gravel, JM Murray – continued contracted partnership with Cortland Schools, Kathy (Reynolds) will have 8 students focus worksite coordination / JM Murray leasing new building on Bennie Road; will house Day Hab, Employment Connection, etc. / RFP approved for FSS expansion of Rec Respite program, starting October 1 – Jeff requested more information at next meeting

Director's Report: Mark Thayer (copy provided)

- ☆ CNY DPG ongoing coordinated planning for individuals cross systems (with OPWDD, OCFS and OMH representatives) – currently have a youth in the emergency department of the GCMC, trying to do high-level planning – continues to be very serious, ongoing issue
- ☆ Thanks, Aaron (Hammond) mentioning the CSB – good opportunity for people to find out what is going on in the community – everyone invited to attend – contact Gail Spitzer to be added to the notification list for that meeting (next meeting September 24 – 3:00 p.m.)
- ☆ Suicide Prevention – Patty Schaap, new coalition developed "SPEAK UP" Cortland (Suicide Prevention, Education, Awareness, Knowledge and Perseverance) an empowering name to encourage speaking up for yourself or a loved one – meeting once per month to develop a strategic plan – if you are interested in joining, contact Patty: pschaap@cortland-co.org – plan to do community trainings; i.e., FFT: Tuesday September 10 at TC3 on Main St., Cortland – free and lunch is provided
- ☆ NY Connects Resource Fair – September 26, noon to 3:00 p.m. in the County Office Building, gymnasium

Announcement: Chair, Jeff Beal – Still one vacancy – names can be sent to Jeff or Gail, or invite the person to attend to better understand the work of the group

Agenda Item: Adjourn Chair, Jeff Beal asked for a motion to adjourn the and thanked everyone for attending

- ✓ Motion by Marianne Odell, seconded by Kathy Reynolds – meeting ended at 2:20 p.m.

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

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