

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

**Meeting Minutes – November 5, 2019
1:00 P.M.
Room 302 – County Office Building**

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

Members Absent: Elizabeth Haskins and Marianne Odell

Others Present: Mark Thayer (Director), Debra Bojarski (OPWDD-DDRO), Carey Peters and Dora Gorman (Southern Tier Connect), Garrett Owen (Starry Night – Racker Center), Annmarie DiGiorgio (Person to Person Citizen Advocacy), Renee Hettich (Adoptive and Foster Family Coalition), Patricia Schaap (CCMHD) and Gail Spitzer (Secretary)

Call to Order: 1:03 p.m. by Chair, Jeff Beal

MINUTES

Introductions Jeff welcomed and thanked everyone for attending

Agenda Item: Approval of Minutes from September 3, 2019 Motion requested by Chair, Jeff Beal

- ✓ Motion made by Kimberly Corbett, seconded by Aaron Hammond – unanimously approved

Agenda Item: Starry Night – Updates – Racker Center Garrett Owen, Assistant Director Residential Services

Starry Night respite program in Cortland – accepting referrals, but not emergency respite referrals – open to both children (as young as 3 years old) and adults, serving up to 80 guests per year – have found that people who come on the same weekend, tend to return, requesting same weekend, making friends, fostering relationships further – accepting people from Central NY and Broome County – operating with approximately 4.5 staff; great stability in that program, great leadership in Jill Perkins, Regional Director / Renee Hettich asked for explanation of process – Garrett: complete a referral to apply for respite units – ensure the program can properly support the individuals' needs – apply through care manager (Debra Bojarski: it is a waiver based program, requiring a care manager who can request respite units through the Regional office – variety of respite levels, including "enhanced respite" rate for children and adults with behavioral issues)

Mark Thayer: percentage of applicants not eligible for program and reasons for not being eligible – helpful to know numbers, etc. to better judge areas of unmet need; especially for those in crisis and higher needs – what can we do to provide other services to help those struggling, who need help the most / Garrett: will look into percentages – some reasons for ineligibility, include both medical and behavioral needs, depending on the individual circumstances – to ensure others have successful, enjoyable weekend, as well / program is based on need, still accepting applications and still can provide more services as needed

Program connects to Cortland IRA's – activities committee try to plan for similar interests and coordinate weekends – serve four to five individuals each weekend, depending on the needs of the individuals / program begins at 4:00 p.m. on Friday, through Sunday night / Debra: if a request is made i.e., "winter break" – if there is sufficient staff, and the individual has "units" available, they can accommodate the request / Aaron Hammond: "Self-direction" plan offers more opportunities – Debra: it is the families' choice of what they want to do with their budget, but fully support Starry Night, it is a great program / program is based on need, still accepting applications and still can provide more services

Agenda Item: Membership discussion

Chair, Jeff Beal: Currently one vacancy – Renee Hettich has expressed an interest in becoming a member, as the mother of a complex care, developmentally disabled 12 year old – always recommend people attend meetings – encourage family and peer membership of this Subcommittee – all who attend these meetings work to develop the Annual County Plan, setting goals and strategies / process: DD Subcommittee vote to nominate – to Community Services Board, Health and Human Services Committee and last, to the full Legislature for approval - members agreed to vote

- ✓ Chair Jeff Beal made a motion to recommend that Renee Hettich be approved for membership, seconded by Kimberly Corbett – no further discussion, motion unanimously approved

Membership conversation – terms expiring 12/31/2019: Aaron Hammond (a tree falls in Cortland) and Amanda Rainbow – both agreeing to a second term of four years / there may be one more vacancy / Jeff: values agency participation, attending all meetings, along with State representation from OPWDD; makes the discussion relevant and is very helpful

Agenda Item: Agency / School / Other Updates:

- Debra Bojarski (OPWDD) – have been trying to expand "uncertified housing" over the last few years; ISH (Individualized Supportive Housing) / agencies coordinate with developers who are interested in tax credits, in NYS – submit proposals to OPWDD Central office, Housing Unit – if project is approved the developer gets a deal through OPWDD and HCR (Home Community Renewal) – agency then provides supports and services to the people living in the complex – first ISH project in Utica, low income housing – historic building with 12 units – OPWDD provides help moving into building, startup costs and housing subsidy / next one in Cicero, set to open next week / developers can request new funding every six months; July and January / Patricia Downs is the contact in Central Office

- Ken Woodman (Parent and Advocate) – Sunday Strikers Bowling Team still going well with support of Access to Independence – attendance down from previous years – still trying to coordinate some of the transportation
- Mark: looking for help from a behavioral health specialist for someone in community that was struggling – was told there is no one trained to provide that service – Carey Peters: Racker Center has a staff person trained – there is a long waiting list for her services – discussed an individual, sent to two different hospitals, on waiting list for intensive Behavioral Health Specialist – will be looking for residential placement – there is no OPWDD residential housing for children in this area – this would mean placement downstate or western NY – the individual is on waiting lists and has been turned away due to age, behavioral problems, etc.
- Annmarie DiGiorgio (Person to Person Citizen Advocacy) – began two weeks ago, formerly employed with Racker Center, Community Relations office

Director’s Report: Mark Thayer (copy provided)

☆ CNY DPG ongoing meetings with OPWDD, OCFS and OMH representatives, State hospital providers – system is configured in such a way that it is not helpful for people – met in October with Commissioner Kastner and the other State representatives – have to create an excess of need to be able to respond to individuals in need – Commissioner discussed the unsustainability of the current system – discussed creating community capacity to be able to manage crisis situations / Directors’ Planning Group proposed developing a small pilot program, with a very few number of CNY counties – to build resources into our existing mobile crisis team – teams trained with OPWDD who have access to special resources; crisis respite, behavioral support to help families make plans

Kathy Reynolds discussed the ways service can be accessed – some families unaware, some are receptive to opportunities and other do not want services / different types of referrals required; from schools’ CSE or legal system – maybe not all the right people are at the table; i.e., Department of Education

☆ I/DD ID Cards - <https://opwdd.ny.gov/iddidcards> very short application - apply on line using link – card offers a quick information delivery system intended to assist individuals with developmental disabilities – providing a quick overview to assist in many ways, but primarily during an emergency

Next Meeting: December 17, 2019 – Joint CSB and Subcommittees meeting – Cortlandville Fire Department – 3:00 p.m.

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

- ✓ Motion by Kathy Reynolds, seconded by Kimberly Corbett – meeting ended at 2:03 p.m.

**Next regular meeting February 4, 2020
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