



Niagara County Community Services Board
 Minutes
 Regular Meeting
 Date: Monday, June 19, 2023
 Time: 6:00 pm

LOCATION: Dept. of Mental Health & Substance Abuse Administrative Offices, Shaw Building, Health Department Conference Room, 1st Floor, 5467 Upper Mountain Road, NY.

| <u>ATTENDANCE:</u> | PRESENT | EXCUSED |
|---|-----------|---------|
| Burt Marshall, Board President | X | |
| Annette Dobrasz, EdD, 1 st Board VP | X | |
| Stephanie Donovan, 2 nd Board VP | X | |
| Rosamond Siegwarth, Board Member | X | |
| Peter Butera, PhD, Board Member | | X |
| Thomas Gerbasi, MD, Board Member | X | |
| Candace Butcher, Board Member | | X |
| Ronald Barstys, PhD, Board Member | | X |
| Suzanne Diez, Board Member | X | |
| Robin Stevens, Board Member | | X |
| Richard Abbott, Board Member | X-6:55 pm | |
| Betsy Farkas, Board Member | X | |
| Donald Jablonski, Board Member | | X |
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| <u>Niagara County Mental Health Administration</u> | | |
| Laura Kelemen, LCSW-R, NCDMH Director | X | |
| Myrla Gibbons Doxey, LMFT, NCDMH Deputy Director | X | |
| Lee Ann Cogar, Confidential Assistant | X | |
| Gillian Henry-Game, HCBS Supervisor | X | |
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| <u>Guests</u> | | |
| Rita Cuda, SVP Children & Family Svcs., Best Self Behavioral Health | X | |
| Mark Laurrie, Superintendent of Niagara Falls City School District | X | |
| Richard Carella, Niagara Falls City School District | X | |
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- 1) **Burt Marshall, Board President, called the Community Services Board (CSB) Meeting to order at 6:03 PM.**
- 2) **The Minutes for the March 20, 2023, and April 17, 2023 meeting were reviewed.**

Dr. Annette Dobrasz motioned to approve the March 20th and April 17, 2023 minutes as presented, Dr. Thomas Gerbasi seconded the motion, both sets of minutes were approved by the Board.

- **CSB Individual Subcommittee Meeting Minutes for June 8, 2023** – Deputy Director Myrla Gibbons Doney provided the Subcommittee meeting minutes to the Board.

- 3) **Membership Review By Director Kelemen** – Director Kelemen advised the Board there are still two open membership positions on the Board.

4) **Director's Report**

- **Correspondence was reviewed by Laura Kelemen, Director.**
 - Letters, Memorandums & E-mails:
 - Correspondence listed on separate page, attached
- **Certificate of Need (CON) / Prior Approval Reviews (PAR)**

***CON - People Inc. CON #IRA-051523-2-WS:** Increase Capacity at 1193 Payne Ave, N. Tonawanda, NY from 4 to 5. Relocate 1 opportunity from 1393 Route 20, Hanover, NY to 1193 Payne Ave, N. Tonawanda, NY. Currently, there three shared bedrooms at Hanover IRA. All the shared bedrooms have vacancies, and all have been hard to fill. Two of those have been vacant for over a year (there is no funding attached to those beds). The third vacant bed has been unoccupied since April 12, 2023. People Inc. would like to move this opportunity to 1193 Payne Avenue. The individual they would like to serve is from the OLV placement initiative and needs an accessible placement. The current single bedroom at 1193 Payne Avenue is used for a respite opportunity. The agency wants to make this a permanent bed. People Inc. is still able to serve individuals looking for freestanding respite in Niagara County located at 6828 Townline Road in North Tonawanda.

Rosemond Siegwarth motioned to approve the CON as presented, Dr. Annette Dobrasz seconded the motion; the CON was approved by the Board.

***EzPar – Best Self Behavioral Health** – Best Self is seeking to establish a new school-based satellite clinic in the Niagara Falls City School District at the new Family Support Center located at the Bloneva Primary School (K-2) on Niagara Street, Niagara Falls, NY. The satellite will serve clients ages 2 – 25. Hours of operation will be Monday through Friday with some evening hours. Students not attending the primary school will be able to access the clinic satellite during the after school hours. Clinic services will be provided during the summer months as the school is open. BestSelf will employ 1.5 Full-Time Employees (FTE). The 1 FTE will carry an average caseload of 40-50 clients while the 0.5 FTE will carry an average caseload of 20-30. Psychiatric and medication management services are available through one of BestSelf's main clinics in Buffalo at a location convenient to the family. Telehealth will be an available option as appropriate. Transportation arrangements will be available for clients in need of this resource either through arrangement by the District or Beset Self. BestSelf and the attending Niagara Falls School District representatives present indicate they will offer families choice in provider; Gateway-Longview also operates a school-based satellite clinic at the same location in a different room to serve the K-2 student population. With the growing mental health concerns in the District's student population and a lack of timely access to clinic services in the area, the District is seeking to add BestSelf as a

provider within the District to expand access to needed services. Rita Cuda, SVP of Family & Children Services at Best Self, and Mark Laurrie, Superintendent, and Richard Carella, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum of the Niagara Falls City School District were all present to answer questions by the Board.

Dr. Annette Dobrasz motioned to approve the EzPar as presented, Stephanie Donovan seconded the motion; the EzPar was approved by the Board.

○ **Informational**–

- **Northpointe Council Inc. – Follow up from April 17, 2023 CSB Meeting** - First Step Center’s Medically Monitored program converted 17 Detox beds to 820 Residential Stabilization beds. Conversion did not require CSB review / approval per WNY OASAS Regional Office Director.
- **Cazenovia Recovery Systems, Inc.** – New supportive living site at 146 Caledonia Street, Lockport, NY – This single family 4 bedroom home is located in a residential neighborhood. It is within a mile of another supportive living property operated by the agency. Cazenovia reports a long-standing, positive relationship with this landlord who takes great care of their properties. Current operating certificate # 240312376 at 1204 Niagara Street, 2nd Floor, Niagara Falls, NY will be reduced by three beds to have those opportunities moved to the new site in Lockport, NY.
- **Horizon Health Services Inc.** – Notification to LGU of plan to apply for OMH-Hosted Integrated Outpatient Services (IOS) License for locations at Pine Avenue (Niagara Falls site), Sanborn Counseling Center (on Horizon Village Campus) and Davison Road (Lockport).
- **Best Self Behavioral Health**– Intensive Crisis Stabilization Center to be located at 430 Niagara Street, Buffalo, NY. Best Self received funding from the NYS Office of Mental Health. Planned to open in 2024, services will be available for adults and children in need for up to 23 hrs and 59 minutes. Because this is located in Buffalo, Erie County will be directly involved in the approval process. Niagara County will work with the agency on processes for our residents to receive appropriate services through there.
- **Recovery Center of Niagara** – Director Kelemen advised Recovery Center of Niagara is currently in discussions with the LGU and NYS OASAS to increase their capacity. The 1A Prior Consult for has not yet been submitted. The Center needs to demonstrate the need for the capacity increase. The Center has not submitted to the LGU the monthly data on their programs’ performance and outcome measures since February 2023; the LGU advised the Center to submit their reports and remain current. Donna Mae DePola is now working in a different capacity, so she is no longer as involved in the Center.

- **2024-2027 Local Services Plan** – Presented by Deputy Director Myrta Gibbons Doxey. This is the first LSP that covers a four-year span. Established goals have a target date of 12/31/2027 and objectives have a one-year target date. Annual LSP updates will occur for each year of the four-year plan. The LSP was devised with input from local provider agencies, peers, a consumer and CSB subcommittee members and it was also guided by review of various data sources and completed needs assessments.

Category issues with high unmet need include:

- Case Management/Care Coordination,
- Crisis Services,
- Cross-Systems Collaborations,
- Employment/Volunteer (clients-OPWDD),
- Housing, Inpatient,

- Non-Clinical,
- Outpatient,
- Prevention,
- Residential Treatment,
- Respite (OMH, OPWDD),
- Workforce Recruitment and Retention,
- Other - Adult Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) and Harm Reduction.

Specific goals were devised to address these high unmet need categories for all three mental hygiene service systems unless otherwise note, and applicable to both youth and adults unless otherwise noted.

- **Goals and related objectives include:**
 - **Timely Access to Care**
 - Adult ACT expansion; Transition between levels of care; Residential programming; Promote recovery for individuals with co-occurring disorders
 - **Expanded Access to Treatment**
 - Expansion of treatment options; Stabilization and recovery
 - **Increase Access to Housing**
 - SRO/Supportive housing expansion; Landlord and community education
 - **Crisis Services**
 - Community resources awareness and utilization; Community education and training; Expand options within crisis continuum of care; Cross system planning and intervention; HBCI or like services for children/adolescents; Access to respite
 - **Cross-System Services**
 - Systems of care; Resources to support collaborations; Service system navigation and improved access to care
 - **Workforce Recruitment and Retention**
 - Culturally competent and diverse workforce; Integrating emerging paraprofessionals/professionals in the workforce; Options to support recruitment and retention of personnel; Improve timely access to Community Based Support Services; Engage in cross-system collaborations to increase workforce development and job placements; Increase number of Peers in the workforce; Integration of IDD individuals in workforce
 - **Expand Prevention Activities**
 - Suicide Prevention Coalition; Commitment to zero suicide model; Promotion of healthy living; Expand early intervention activities,
 - **Tackle the Opioid/Drug Epidemic**
 - Public awareness/engagement opportunities; Expand harm reduction options; Education and training opportunities; Expand access to trained peers

Rosemond Siegwarth motioned to approve the 2024-2027 Local Service Plan as presented, Stephanie Donovan seconded the motion; the 2024-2027 Local Services Plan was approved by the Board.

- **2022 Home and Community Based Services Annual Report** – Presented by Gillian-Henry Game, HCBS Supervisor.
- **Corporate Compliance** – covered during the executive session.
- **Programs / System Updates, provided by Director Kelemen.**
 - **ENH Closure and Catholic Health Restructure at Mount St. Mary’s Hospital** – System Impacts – Director Kelemen reported ENH has officially closed the hospital. The new emergency center on Transit Road in Lockport has opened “temporarily” until the new facility is in

operation. Individuals will be treated/stabilized in the ER and then transferred to another hospital or released. Mount St. Mary's Hospital is discontinuing any services by July 1st that require anesthesia; this is due to continued workforce challenges. Clearview Treatment Services will remain open.

5) **President's Report** – Responding to time sensitive voting items – Burt Marshall advised the Board an Executive Member meeting was necessary to approve an OPWDD application in order to meet the 10-day response deadline. We need to find a way to vote on these items in a timely fashion. Myrla Gibbons Doxey commented that the LGU could request an extension through an official letter; however, OPWDD does not have to grant an extension. Dr. Dobrasz commented that Robert's Rules of Order states a vote by email can occur, but a vote must be provided by every member and be unanimous to be accepted. Additionally, the Board must address the voting item at the next meeting. Laura asked the Board if there are items they would be comfortable with her making the decision to move forward on. If this were to take place, the Board would need to create a resolution containing parameters as to what she has permission to move forward. President Burt Marshall believes this subject should have further research and discussion prior to making a decision.

6) **Executive Session** – 2nd Quarter Corporate Compliance Report.

Dr. Thomas Gerbasi motioned to enter into Executive Session; Dr. Annette Dobrasz seconded the motion, the Board entered into Executive Session at 8:04.

Dr. Annette Dobrasz motioned to exit into Executive Session, Stephanie Donovan seconded the motion; the Board exited Executive Session at 8:35 pm.

7) **Meeting Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned immediately following the exit of Executive Session at 8:35 pm.

Next CSB Meeting Date: July/August TBD